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**RECORDS**  
**OF THE**  
**COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**AND**  
**PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,**  
**IN**  
**NEW ENGLAND.**



**PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

**EDITED BY**  
**JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE.**

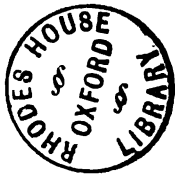
**VOL. V.**

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**1741 TO 1756.**

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**PROVIDENCE:**  
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**1860.**



## P R E F A C E .

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THE present, or fifth volume of the Colonial Records of Rhode Island, includes but sixteen years of its history. It commences in 1741, closes with 1756, and is chiefly devoted to that portion of its annals which includes the wars between Great Britain and France. These wars were the beginning of the great struggle for empire in North America. At the commencement of this struggle, the British colonies were confined to a narrow belt of territory, scarcely reaching, at its broadest point, three hundred miles from the Atlantic coast. Part of New England, the greater portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, as well as all the vast region to the west of these colonies, were then included in Louisiana, or New France ; while the Spanish possessions crowded close upon Georgia and the Carolinas, under the general name of Florida, and extended nearly to the Mississippi. The New England colonies and New York were the most prominent in these wars, but none of them more so than Rhode Island. The ships fitted out by her and sent against the enemy, were more numerous than those of either of the other colonies ; while her soldiers were prominent in all the expeditions for the reduction of Canada, and other portions of the French empire, in America. In the expeditions sent against Louisburg, Cape Breton, Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Oswego, Quebec and other places, her troops or ships took part ; and the correspondence, in this volume, of her Governors with the home government, the British admirals and generals, as well as with the Governors of the other English colonies, show the position which she held, and the aid she offered in the struggle for supremacy on the continent.



In the war between Great Britain and Spain, Rhode Island also furnished her contingent, by sending troops to Cuba, as the proceedings of the General Assembly, and the correspondence accompanying will show.

The issuing of bills of credit, or paper money, to a vast amount, by the English colonies, which was absolutely necessary, to enable them to meet the heavy expenditures required of them to carry on their several campaigns, is another prolific subject for discussion in this volume. The numerous acts for the emission and calling in of this paper money, the several objects for which the emissions were made, the correspondence with the other colonies in relation to the same, and with the British government, in its efforts to curtail and check the enormous emissions, are given at length. Among these documents, the official report of Governor Ward to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, written in 1740, giving a full history of the paper money emissions from 1710 to 1740, the causes of these issues, the exertions and sacrifices made by the colony to assist the mother country in her foreign wars, will be found of great interest.

The originals received by the colony, of all the orders of the King and council; the letters, commissions, instructions and other documents, printed or referred to in this volume, are among the archives of the secretary of state's office, in Providence, chronologically arranged and bound in volumes, where they may be conveniently referred to. Besides these, there are among the archives, many military returns, and other papers connected with the French wars, showing the names of the officers and men of the Rhode Island regiments, with a variety of original letters and documents of a private nature, belonging to the period embraced in this volume, which are not printed.

PROVIDENCE, January, 1860.

J. R. B.

**RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.**



## RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Warwick, the 27th day of January, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for the more effectually putting the colony in a proper posture of defence.

Whereas, there is an absolute necessity of putting the colony, and particularly the town of Newport, in a better posture of defence, not only in regard to the present war with Spain; but, more especially, as all advices from abroad suppose a war with France inevitable in the spring:

And whereas, it hath been found vastly prejudicial to this colony, the act empowering the freemen and soldiers to choose their own military officers; and as the fines already stated by law, on soldiers' neglecting their attendance on military duty, have been too small;—

All which being duly considered, be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that

the aforesaid act empowering the freemen and soldiers choosing their military officers, be, and it is hereby repealed, and declared null and void ; and that for the future, the General Assembly, annually, at their session holden in May, choose and elect the military officers in this government, and to be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, as usual ; and that the military officers already elected be continued in their respective offices till the first Wednesday in May next.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for the future, the council of war shall consist of the Governor, and so many of the council for the time being as are then present, the field officers, and the captains of each company (and the lieutenant in the absence of the captain), and no others ; who are hereby empowered to appoint such other days as may be necessary, to discipline the militia, and make them expert in the use of their arms, over and above the four training days by law appointed in war time ; and that every soldier neglecting to give his attendance and do his duty in that service, shall be obliged to pay as a fine, the sum of ten shillings, and forty shillings for each day's neglect on an alarm ; which fines shall be appropriated towards the maintaining a magazine for the public use in each county, after the necessary charge of each company is defrayed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be two more companies made in the town of Newport, and proper officers appointed over them by the General Assembly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the lower battery, at Fort George, be repaired and enlarged, so as to mount ten or more cannon ; and that a committee be appointed for that purpose, and to make all necessary alterations and reparations at said fort and battery.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be a magazine or powder house, of brick, erected, not exceeding twenty-four feet in diameter, in some convenient place in the town of Newport, to contain the powder that may be imported into this colony ; and that there be ten barrels of powder procured at the colony charge, and for their use ; and also

a suitable quantity of ball, to be lodged in said magazine; and the same quantity from time to time to be there kept; and that there be three barrels of powder and a suitable quantity of ball procured for the county of Providence; and the same quantity of each, for the county of Kings county, all for the use of the colony, to be under the care of the field officers of each county; and that ten field pieces be procured for the use of the colony, to be kept in the county of Newport; and a committee to be appointed for the purposes aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all persons making solemn engagement before the Governor or any magistrate, in the respective counties where an alarm is made, that its against their conscience to bear arms at all, shall, on an alarm, appear at the Governor's or magistrate's, as aforesaid, either with horses (though without arms), to be employed as scouts, messengers, watches, &c.; or else, if they appear on foot, that they be divided into companies, and obey the Governor's or magistrate's order, to remove women and children, or sick persons out of immediate danger; or to watch against or extinguish any fires that may be kindled at such times, either by design or accident; and to do any other duty consistent with their religious principles; and any person, as aforesaid, not appearing, shall be obliged to pay the sum of forty shillings for each day's neglect.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that one field officer, with the commissioned officers of each company, are appointed a court martial to punish or fine any soldier under arms, for any offence by him committed, agreeable to the nature and circumstances thereof.

Voted and resolved, that Col. John Cranston, Col. John Gardner and Major Hezekiah Carpenter, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to consider in what manner two companies more be made in the town of Newport, and do what is necessary to be done at the fort, according to the afore-written act; and that Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. William Ellery and Ezbon Sanford, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to build a magazine at Newport, and procure powder

and ball, agreeable to the said act ; and that the said committee draw money out of the general treasury for the purposes aforesaid.

Voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Greene and Ezekiel Warner, Esqs., Messrs. Daniel Abbott, John Jenkins and Ishmael Spink, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to examine whether the boundary marks, in the line between this colony and the colony of Connecticut, at, or near the south-west corner of Warwick Purchase, be removed, and make report to the next session of this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, with those of his council, living upon Rhode Island, or the major part of them, procure a suitable vessel and send to Annapolis for the commissioners appointed to settle the boundaries between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, &c., in such manner as may be agreeable to the dignity of those gentlemen ; and for that purpose, that they draw money out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to take care of the colony sloop, procure the same to be rigged and graved, by the last day of March next ensuing.

Voted and resolved, that the account of James Martin, secretary, amounting to £40 10s. 10d., being for his time, trouble, horse-hire, expenses, &c., in going to Boston, to fetch the commission (and copies thereof), for settling the boundaries between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury.

God save the King.

*Letters from the Board of Trade, relative to paper money.*

Whitehall, July 5, 1739.

Gentlemen : We send you, herewith, copies of two addresses from the House of Lords, and likewise two addresses\* from the House of Commons, to His Majesty, of the 13th of the last month, and desire that you will forthwith prepare and trans-

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\* The addresses here referred to, are not among the public archives.

mit to us, as soon as possible, the several accounts therein required, that the same may be laid before the respective Houses, at the next meeting of Parliament.

So we bid you heartily farewell ; and are

Your very loving friends and humble servants,

MONSON,

R. PLUMER,

EDWARD ASHE,

M. BLADEN.

To the Governor and Company, of Rhode Island.

Whitehall, May 20, 1740.

Gentlemen : In pursuance of an address of the House of Commons, to His Majesty, on the 25th April, 1740, and of His Majesty's commands, signified to us by His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, in his letter, dated the 30th April, you are immediately to prepare, and, as soon as possible, transmit to us, in order to be laid before the House of Commons, at their next meeting, an account of the tenour, and amount of the bills of credit which have been created and issued in your government, that are now outstanding, with their respective times when such bills, so outstanding, were issued ; with the amount of said bills in money of Great Britain, both at the time such bills were issued, and at the time of preparing your account.

You are likewise to send therewith your opinion what will be the most easy and effectual manner of sinking and discharging all such bills of credit, with the least prejudice to the inhabitants of your government, and interruption of the commerce of this kingdom.

And we desire you will use all possible despatch in this matter, that we may have your returns early enough for us to consider thereof before the beginning of the next session. So we bid you heartily farewell ; and are

Your very loving friends, and humble servants,

MONSON,

M. BLADEN,

R. PLUMER,

JA. BRUDENELL.

EDW. ASHE,

To the Governor and Company, of Rhode Island.

Whitehall, August 19, 1640.

Sir : We send you, herewith enclosed, the copy of an address to the House of Commons, to His Majesty, in the last session of Parliament, by which you will perceive how much they apprehend the commerce of Great Britain to have been affected by the large and frequent emissions of paper currency in His Majesty's colonies, in America, in which Rhode Island has had too large a share. And His Majesty, in pursuance of said address, having sent circular instructions to the several colonies more immediately under his government, not to pass any more bills for the issuing of paper money, without a clause therein, as proposed by the said address, to suspend the execution till His Majesty's pleasure shall be signified thereupon. We think proper to acquaint you therewith, and at the same time to admonish and advise you to pay all due regard to His Majesty's intentions, and to the sense of the House of Commons, upon this occasion.

So we bid you heartily farewell ; and are

Your very loving friends, and humble servants,

MONSON,

M. BLADEN,

— CROFT,

JA. BRUDENELL.

John Wanton, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.



*Report of Governor Ward, to the Board of Trade, on paper money.*

Newport, January, the 9th, 1740.

To the Right Honorable the Lords and Commissioners of Trade for the Foreign Plantations :

May it please your Lordships : We have received your Lordships's letter of the 20th of May, with the votes of the Honorable House of Commons, of the 25th of April last, respecting the emission of paper money in the plantations, and now transmit your Lordships an account of the several emissions made by this colony ; but before we enter on that business, we humbly ask leave to premise to your Lordships, that it is now but an hundred years since the English came into this colony, then a hideous wilderness, and inhabited by Indians only ; of whom the land was purchased from time to time, as opportunity and circumstances would permit.

And as the first settlers were not of the wealthiest sort, nor overstocked with servants, the greatest part of their money was unavoidably swallowed up in procuring provision, clothing and utensils for husbandry and labor, to subdue and cultivate the soil ; whence it came to pass, that although there be several commodious harbors within this colony, and a part of the Atlantic ocean makes our southern boundary, yet little or no navigation was carried on till about the beginning of the present century ; necessity engaging the inhabitants to employ the whole of their time and care—some to bring to, and manure the land, others to follow such trades and occupations as they were most capable of, for the support of themselves and those who depended on them. Indeed, they had a small matter of money, but that was chiefly the remains of what they and their fathers had brought into the country.

In the year 1710, we had orders from Her Majesty, the late Queen Ann, to raise and equip a number of soldiers, to assist in an expedition designed against the French and Indian enemies, which we cheerfully performed, but could not effect, without striking off a quantity of paper money, to supply the want of silver and gold (then exceeding scarce). Seven thousand pounds in bills, were therefore emitted, and put into the treasury, for discharging the debts that the government had contracted, by raising and equipping those soldiers. These bills amounted to about £4,598 15s., and passed equal to silver at eight shillings per ounce, and were to remain outstanding for the space of five years.

Anno 1711, the war continuing, and the government too plainly seeing the aforesaid £7,000 were not sufficient to answer the bonds for which they were emitted, added £6,300 to the former emission, which likewise passed equal to silver at eight shillings per ounce, and amounted to about £4,134 7s. 6d.

We have already observed to your Lordships, that husbandry and mechanical arts were the only employ of the inhabitants of this colony, till about the beginning of the present century ; in consequence of which, a small medium of exchange was sufficient till other emergencies required a larger. The colony had been obliged to assist in sundry expeditions, for reducing Port Royal and Canada ; and were un-

der an inevitable necessity of frequently taking the merchants' vessels and fitting them out at the public charge, to defend us against the insults and depredations threatened by the enemy, who were almost every year, during the last war, hovering about our coast; by which means, the government was greatly involved, and much in debt, notwithstanding the aforesaid emissions.

The fort, likewise, which we had built at our own expense, was very much out of repair, and destitute of stores and ammunition. And there being also a necessity of a public jail in Newport, the metropolis of the colony, we were compelled to make an emission of £40,000 in bills of credit, Anno 1715, which was issued on loan, at five per cent., to the inhabitants, for ten years, upon land security, taken to double the value of the money hired by each particular person; the interest thereof, was applied, part to sink the two former banks, part to pay off the public debts, part to defray the expenses of repairing the fort and furnishing it with stores and the other part to the building and support of the jail, and to defray the other incidental charges of the government.

Silver was worth twelve shillings per ounce at the time of making these last bills, and their whole amount was about £17,500.

1721. As the little trade of our colony (which was almost stagnated in the long war with France), had begun to revive upon the peace made at Utrecht, the merchants found themselves in a capacity of rendering it more extensive, through the assistance of that medium they were furnished with, by the emission of paper bills, Anno 1715, they accordingly built more vessels, and generously advanced into a much larger trade, and every thing among us seemed to be in flourishing circumstances.

But the merchants of Boston, annually receiving vast quantities of goods from Great Britain, and not having a sufficiency of the product of this country to make proper remittances home, bought up all the gold and silver they could lay their hands upon, in this and the neighboring governments, in order to pay their debts in England. This rendered those commodities very scarce, and our bills having obtained a currency amongst our neighbors in the adjacent governments, became scarce likewise.

Our trade was nevertheless still increasing, and the fort wanted a further repair; all which obliged us to emit another £40,000, A. D. 1721, which was let out upon loan, at five per cent., on land security (as the bills in 1715 had been), for the term of five years. And that the industrious might have a suitable encouragement, the treasurer was ordered to receive the interest thereof in good merchantable hemp and flax, from such persons as should tender it, at such prices as should from time to time be set by the General Assembly; which interest hath been appropriated to the use of the public. Silver was worth about sixteen shillings per ounce at the time of making those bills; and their whole amount was about £13,125.

The time fixed for paying in the £40,000 of 1715, being come, the government were made sensible that many people who had taken those bills, having laid out the greatest part thereof in building houses, and otherwise improving their estates, were not in a capacity of paying the same in one entire sum as they had received it; and considering they had all along punctually paid their interest, to prevent the utter ruin and destruction of many industrious families, continued that bank, out upon interest, for three years further, viz.: until the year 1728, at which time, the same was ordered to be sunk by ten annual payments of one tenth part of the whole, which hath been done accordingly.

The surprising growth of our commerce, occasioned in a great measure by the merchants' being supplied with a medium of exchange, from the emissions of paper bills in 1715 and 1721, invited people of all sorts and conditions to come from all parts and settle among us. This made our colony populous, furnished us with mechanics of everykind, and helped us to make a further progress in trade and navigation, which required a larger medium than we had.

Therefore, Anno 1728, seeing that the merchants of Boston still persisted in buying up the silver and gold, that £4,000 of the bills then extant, were to be sunk annually, and that the fort was so far gone to decay, that to build a new one more regular, strong and larger, was conceived to be most advantageous and beneficial, the General Assembly emitted £40,000 more, in bills of public credit, which was hired out upon the same loan, for thirteen years, upon the like good security, with the bills formerly emitted; the interest whereof, hath been appropriated to the building of a new fort and other public uses. Silver was at eighteen shillings per ounce at the striking off of these bills, and their total amount about £11,666 13s. 4d.

Frequent experiments had convinced several of our farmers and husbandmen that the soil of the colony was very suitable for the production of hemp; but it being a new undertaking, they petitioned the General Assembly that proper encouragement might be given them to raise a commodity which would not only be very serviceable to us, but might in time, prove of advantage to Great Britain itself.

It was also considered that the Provinces of the Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire had been very successful, and served themselves in an eminent manner, by the whale and cod fishery; and that this colony was well situated to carry on so valuable a branch of trade.

The General Assembly thereupon, Anno 1731, passed an act for the emitting of £60,000 in bills of public credit, of the same tenor and on the same establishment with the former banks; the interest whereof, to be applied to the following uses: a premium or bounty was granted of nine pence per pound, on all good water-rotted, well manufactured hemp that should be raised within this colony; five shillings per barrel on whale oil, one penny per pound on whale bone, and five shillings per quintal on good merchantable cod fish, taken in any vessels belonging to this colony. Silver was worth twenty-two shillings per ounce, when these bills were emitted, and their amount was about £14,218 3s. 7d.

In the year 1733, the colony having made some progress in the fishing business, perceived all their endeavors that way would certainly prove ineffectual, unless a convenient harbor, nearer the fishing ground, than that of Newport (being the highest), were found out. They therefore formed a scheme of making an harbor on Block Island, fit to receive our fishing vessels and the coasters of this and the neighboring governments. At the same time, we had just finished a very handsome, regular fort of stone and mortar, and as this fort is much larger than the former, and hath a large battery on the west side more than the other had, a number of cannon, carriages, &c., were wanting, and could not be obtained without money.

On this, therefore, and the aforementioned occasion, the General Assembly made another bank of £104,000 in bills of public credit, part of which was expended in purchasing cannons, carriages and other military stores for the fort, and the remainder exhibited upon loan in the same manner, and on the like good security with the former banks; part of the interest money arising thereon appropriated to build a pier

and make the harbor on Block Island, and the rest of the said interest to the use of the public. Silver was worth at the emission of those bills, twenty-five shillings<sup>s</sup> per ounce; and their total amount about £21,840.

1738. We emitted \$100,000 more, on the like security with the former banks, the interest to be appropriated to the building of a large brick state house, for the colony's use, and to erect a light house for the benefit of our navigation, and to render it more easy and secure. The cause of this emission, also, was the want of a sufficient medium of exchange. For the colony of Connecticut carries on but a small trade, and that chiefly with the produce of their own soil, as wheat, Indian corn, peas, beans, onions, beef, pork, and such like commodities, and therefore stand in need of a very small medium, which, with a quantity of our bills passing there, hath rendered it unnecessary for them to make any large emissions of bills of credit; and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, having their hands so tied up, that notwithstanding a great number of our bills is circulating among them, the merchants of Boston have been forced to emit a round sum of negotiable notes of hand, to supply the want of money, and prevent business from stagnation. Silver was at about twenty-seven shillings per ounce, when these bills were emitted; and their amount about £19,444 8s. 10d.

1740. As the King's Most Excellent Majesty had engaged in a just and necessary war against Spain, on account of the repeated depredations and unheard of cruelties by that nation exercised on our fellow-subjects, the General Assembly, at their session last winter, calling to mind the great danger we were constantly exposed to, in the late war with the French, by being unprovided with a vessel of war of our own, and so frequently obliged to take the vessels of private persons, and equip them in haste to go out and fight the enemy, as they came to infest our coast, resolved, and accordingly built, early the last spring, a fine sloop, of the burthen of one hundred and fifteen tons, mounted her with twelve carriage and twelve swivel guns; and furnished her with small arms, pistols, cutlasses, &c., to defend us against the enemy, should we be attacked.

In the former part of the current year, we received His Majesty's royal instructions, directing us to raise as many able bodied, effective men in this colony as would voluntarily enlist in his service, on an expedition intended against some of the King of Spain's territories in the West Indies. In obedience to which, the General Assembly immediately appointed three captains, and passed an act granting a bounty of £3, and other encouragement to every such man that should voluntarily enter into the aforesaid service. This zeal in the Assembly, animated the common people to such a degree, that two of the captains had completed their companies, each consisting of one hundred men, within the space of two months; the third had collected above seventy soldiers, and would have made up his company in due time, had the government been honored with another of the royal commissions.

These soldiers were billeted out, at the charge of the public (from the time of their being enlisted, till they were disbanded, about the 16th of August); and so were the other two companies, till the middle of September, when they embarked for New York, in two transports, hired by the colony, for that purpose, having first received blankets and other necessaries, as a further gratuity from the government; all which extraordinary expenses, and the incident charges of government, greatly augmented by the war, made it absolutely necessary to emit more bills of public credit. Upon which, the Assembly have this year, 1740, passed an act for issuing out £20,000 in paper bills, equivalent to silver, stated at six shillings and nine pence

per ounce, to be let out at four cent. upon loan (on such land security as hath been heretofore taken), for ten years, and then to be sunk by ten equal annual payments. Silver is now worth twenty-seven shillings per ounce, and the whole of this bank amounts to about £15,555 11s. 1d.

And now, may it please your Lordships, having given you an exact account of the several emissions of our paper bills, their amount, &c., as was required, we entreat your Lordships to consider that this colony was first purchased, then settled, and hath been at all times defended by its inhabitants at their own proper costs and charges, as well against the Indian natives in former times, as against foreign enemies of latter years; and that without ever becoming chargeable to our mother country, or repining at the expense; for, although we were not rich, yet poverty was a stranger among us, till the year 1710, when we were called upon to appear in the field for the honor and interest of Great Britain. The vast expense of that and other expeditions, in the war, reduced us to a low ebb; yet we manfully struggled through our difficulties, and upon the restoration of peace, boldly ventured upon enlarging our trade, which God Almighty hath crowned with so great a success, that we follow the same path to this day.

We have now above one hundred and twenty sail of vessels belonging to the inhabitants of this colony, all constantly employed in trade; some on the coast of Africa, others, in the neighboring colonies, many in the West Indies, and a few in Europe.

Besides the two hundred soldiers raised for His Majesty's immediate service, the merchants of the town of Newport have equipped five privateers, with crews amounting in the whole, to near four hundred men, who are now cruising against the Spaniards.

Our fort is provided with thirty-six cannon, well mounted, and furnished with a suitable quantity of military stores; by which, and our having a privateer able to fight a hundred men on her deck, and ready upon all emergencies, we are become the barrier and best security of the New England trade.

These, may it please your Lordships, are matters of the utmost importance to us; for navigation is one main pillar on which this government is supported at present; and we never should have enjoyed this advantage, had not the government emitted bills of credit to supply the merchants with a medium of exchange, always proportioned to the increase of their commerce; without this, we should have been in a miserable condition, unable to defend ourselves against an enemy, or to assist our neighbors in times of danger.

In short, if this colony be in any respect happy and flourishing, it is paper money, and a right application of it, that hath rendered us so. And that we are in a flourishing condition, is evident from our trade, which is greater in proportion to the dimensions of our government, than that of any colony in His Majesty's American dominions.

Nor have we served ourselves only, by engaging so deeply in navigation. The neighboring governments have been in a great measure, supplied with rum, sugar, molasses and other West India goods by us brought home and sold to them here. Nay, Boston, itself, the metropolis of the Massachusetts, is not a little obliged to us for rum and sugar and molasses, which they distil into rum, for the use of their fishermen, &c.

The West Indies have likewise reaped great advantage from our trade, by being supplied with lumber of all sorts, suitable for building houses, sugar works and

making casks; beef, pork, flour and other provisions, we are daily carrying to them, with horses to turn their mills, and vessels for their own use; and our African trade often furnishes them with slaves for their plantations. To all this, we beg leave to add, that the merchants of Great Britain, have, within these twelve months, or thereabouts, received seven or eight sail of ships from this colony, for goods imported here of late, and sold to the inhabitants.

On the whole, your Lordships will perceive that the various emissions of bills in this colony were made to answer good and generous intentions; that the interest arising on the several banks, together with part of some of the principal sums, have been applied to the necessary defence and support of the colony, building of piers and harbors, for promoting the fishing business, and to encourage the raising and manufacturing of hemp, &c.

And although the sums emitted, are large in sound, yet, when the whole of what we have outstanding, to wit: £340,000, is reduced to sterling money, it will not amount to more than £88,074 16s. 10½d., a very small sum to answer for a medium of exchange, considering the extent of our trade, the number of inhabitants, and their improvements; and that those bills answer the same end, and are the major part of the currency in the neighboring governments, and the banks emitted in 1728 and 1731, will begin to be sunk the next year.

Your Lordships will doubtless observe, that paper bills, have from the time of their being first made, sunk in value, till of late years, the cause whereof (which common experience hath taught us), we humbly take leave to suggest to your Lordships, it is supposed by many that the frequent emissions of those bills hath effected their depreciation. But the contrary may be safely averred. For they always passed, and were received equal to silver, at so much per ounce, till the merchants of Boston, having large quantities of goods from Europe, and supplying all the governments of New England therewith, could find no way to make sufficient remittances, but by buying up all the silver and gold they could purchase. This put those commodities on the same level with common merchandize; and so they who wanted it most, bid higher and higher, till gold and silver arrived to the price they now bear, always taking care to rate their goods in proportion to what they last gave for sterling money. And this is, the only true way of accounting for that misfortune; and what confirms it is, that the colony of Connecticut have not, at this time, above £13,000 or £14,000 extant, in bills of credit; and yet it takes as much of their money to purchase an ounce of silver, as it does of the Massachusetts, New Hampshire or ours. Hereto, we beg leave to add, that within the space of about six or seven years, several of the merchants of Newport have contracted a correspondence in London, procured goods to be sent to them, and thereby so well supplied our shop-keepers, that our dependence on Boston hath been in some measure taken off. In return for those goods, our merchants have remitted to their correspondents, ships of our own building, logwood fetched from the Bay of Honduras, in our own vessels; bills of exchange purchased of the planters, in the West Indies, and other commodities, in such quantities, that for these six years last past, bills have continued be equal to silver, at twenty-seven shillings per ounce.

We are required to give our sentiments with regard to the easiest method of sinking the bills of credit now outstanding. In answer thereto, we can only assure your Lordships, that after our utmost efforts to do our money justice and save the inhabitants from inevitable ruin, we have not been able to find out a better way

than to sink the several banks by ten equal annual payments. We have learnt from experience that this is a safe course, and therefore pursue it.

To conclude, we are humbly of opinion, that, considering the good foundation on which our bills have been emitted, and the substantial security taken (according to the several acts) for paying in the same, no damage can possibly accrue from those emissions, which encourages us to hope that your Lordships and the honorable inspectors into those affairs will, from what little has been offered, view the state of this colony in a true light, and find that we have acted such a part as has rendered this government strong and secure against our enemies, without any charge to Great Britain, and a barrier to that very Province that is always reviling us for the loss of their trade, as well as advanced ourselves to be not the most inconsiderable of His Majesty's plantations in America.

We are, may it please your Lordships,

Your most obedient and very humble servants,

RICHARD WARD, Governor,

For the company of the colony of Rhode Island, &c.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the first Wednesday of April, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the west end of the town of East Greenwich into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of West Greenwich.

Whereas, several of the inhabitants of the aforesaid town of East Greenwich, by petition to this Assembly, did set forth the great disadvantage they labor under, on account of the great extent of said town; and, as it is conceived, it will be more for the ease and benefit of all its inhabitants in transacting and negotiating the prudential affairs thereof, to have a division made;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from the westerly line

of the old township, unto the colony line, be set off and incorporated a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of West Greenwich; and that the inhabitants thereof, from time to time, shall have, and enjoy the like benefits, liberties, privileges and immunities with other towns in this colony, according to our charter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that John Spenser, Esq, a justice of the peace, living within the aforesaid new town, remain in his office till the first Wednesday in May, next; and that he grant forth a warrant to call in the inhabitants of the said town together on the third Tuesday of this instant April, to elect such town officers as they shall have occasion for, and the law directs; and to appoint the time of their town meeting, and the places, and to choose and elect two deputies, to represent them at the next General Assembly, and so on, as by the charter is directed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that said town shall send one petit juror to the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery; and one grand and one petit juror to the inferior court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace.

And it is also further enacted, that there be two trustees appointed for the said new town, for the letting out of its proportionable part of the £20,000, ordered to be emitted.

Voted and resolved, that John Spenser, Esq. and Mr. John Greene, be committee men for the town of West Greenwich, to let out their proportionable part of the bank money.

Voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Samuel Clarke, Thos. Spenser, William Jenckes, Stephen Hopkins, Daniel Abbott, Francis Willett, Henry Bull, Daniel Updike, James Honeyman, Jr. and Thomas Ward, Esqs., or any four of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to represent and manage the affairs of this colony before the commissioners to hear and determine the boundary between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay; and they are hereby fully empowered to employ one or more attorney or attornies, and



to do all and every thing else lawful and necessary for prosecuting said affair to effect.

And also, that Ezekiel Warner and George Brown, Esqs., both of Providence, in the county of Providence, in said colony, be, and they are hereby appointed and chosen the two public officers in this colony, pursuant to the commission for settling the boundary between this colony and said Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

Voted and resolved, that the attorney general sue to the next inferor court of common pleas, to be held at Newport, all the committees of the several towns in this colony, who have not made return of the mortgages and bonds to the grand committee, and bonds for interest to the general treasurer, which they took for the proportionable part of the last bank, and the former banks, belonging to each town, to account for the same.

An Act for equipping the colony sloop, and sending of her out to cruise, &c.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that the committee who procured the colony sloop to be built, forthwith equip and fit her with ammunition, stores and all other necessaries suitable for a cruise.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor, the Governor, and so many of his council as shall be present, together with the aforesaid committee, be, and they are hereby empowered and directed to appoint forthwith a captain, lieutenant, master, gunner, boatswain, carpenter, cook and twelve other men, upon the best terms they can, to belong to said sloop constantly, until orders from the Assembly to the contrary.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor, the Governor, with the advice of such of his council as shall be present, from time to time, upon news of an enemy being upon the coast, shall (if they think proper to send out said sloop) immediately order the captain to beat up for vol-

unteers, and enlist to the number of one hundred men with them before belonging to said sloop, and send her out with the greatest expedition.

And if at any time there does not a sufficient number of men enlist, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby directed and fully empowered to give out his warrant for impressing so many men as there shall be a necessity of, to make up the complement; and that the volunteers, as well as those impressed, be under pay from the colony from the time they enter, or are impressed, till they are discharged.

Whereas, James Greene and others, did, by petition to this Assembly, set forth that there is, on the south branch of Pawtuxet river, within the township of Warwick, a very convenient place for the erecting of works for the refining of iron, and which it is conceived, will prove of great advantage to the public, in clearing land, &c.; and as the same cannot be accomplished without building a dam across said river, and which, according to a late law of the colony, must be left open from the 10th day of April to the 20th day of May, annually, which would entirely frustrate the good design of the petitioners, therefore prayed that they might have the liberty of building their works, and erecting a dam across said river, for the purpose aforesaid, without being obliged to leave said dam open within the time aforesaid;—

Which being duly considered, be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the petitioners have liberty to build iron works on the south side of Pawtuxet river, and adjoining to their land, for the purpose aforesaid, and to erect a dam across said river, without being obliged to leave open the same within the time aforesaid.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £5 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to George Taylor, Esq., a justice of the peace, in the county of Providence, for his service in administering the oaths of allegiance from a company of soldiers raised within the said county of Providence, to go in the service of His present Majesty, on an expedition against the Spaniards.

Whereas, William Jenckes, of Providence, in the county of Providence, Esq., did present to this Assembly a copy of the record of the laying out an open highway from Pawtucket bridge on the other side thereof, to the country road, to the satisfaction of said Assembly ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said William Jenckes draw out of the general treasury the £50 granted him at the last October session, towards building one half of said bridge.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £30 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury to William Jenckes, Esq., which, together with the sum of £50 already ordered to be paid him by this Assembly, is in full satisfaction for the building one half of Pawtucket bridge.

An Act for laying an embargo on vessels (bound to sea) upon any emergent occasion.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, with such of his council as shall be present, be, and they are hereby empowered to lay an embargo upon all or any vessels in this colony, from time to time, as they shall think needful.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 5th day of May, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Capt. Benjamin Ellery,	Mr. John Dexter,
Mr. Ezekiel Warner,	Mr. Philip Arnold,
Mr. Richard Fenner,	Mr. John Wickes,
Mr. Gideon Cornell,	Mr. Christopher Phillips.

Mr. Stephen Hopkins, speaker.

Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Voted, that the following be admitted freemen of this colony:

Of Newport, Mathew Pate, Oliver Arnold, John Jepson, Philip Wilkinson, Jonathan Conklin, Edward Church, Joshua Lyon, William Pinnegar, Abraham Borden, Charles Wickham, Jonathan Easton, Jr., Benjamin Pitman, Thomas Melvil, John Clarke, shoemaker; George Gibbs, William Weeden, Jr., Christopher Bennett, William Edmonds, Abner Coffin, Walter Rodman, Henry Taggart, Philip Wanton, John Goddard, Israel Chapman, Charles Davenport, Clement Stanton, Samuel Hunt, Thomas Brewer, George Cornell, Jr., Peleg Carr and Caleb Carr.

Of Providence, Jonathan Knight, Jr., Silas Field, John Warner, Mathew Manchester, Phineas Brown, Thomas Fenner, son of Joseph; Richard Fenner, Jr., Charles Atwood and William Borden.

Of Portsmouth, Timothy Lawton and William Coggeshall, Jr.

Of Warwick, Charles Rhodes, Anthony Goff, Samuel Wales, Moses Blanchard and Joseph Wickes.

Of Westerly, Ichabod Prossor, John Lewis, son to John Lewis, Jr., Stephen Lewis, Jedediah Irish and Peter Crandall.

Of New Shoreham, Robert Hull, Nathaniel Rathbun and Samuel Dun.

Of North Kingstown, Simon Smith, Eber Shearman, son of

William ; William Draper, Joseph Rodman, William Reynolds Jeremiah Gardner, Jr. and Jonathan Allen.

Of East Greenwich, James Lewis, John Wells, Ebenezer Mattason, John Nichols, son of Stephen ; William Clarke, Sam Rogers and Griffen Sweet.

Of Jamestown, John Eldred, Joshua Bill, Thomas Eldred and Nathaniel Church.

Of Smithfield, Benjamin Buffum, Joseph Buffum, Philip Loja, Abiah Angel, Elisha Arnold, William Whipple and Sam Irons.

Of Scituate, Joseph Berry, David Daley, William Collins, Thomas Bennett, Jr. and David Young.

Of Glocester, Benjamin Smith.

Of Charlestown, James Rogers, Jr. and Amos Greene.

Of West Greenwich, Abraham Mattason, Samuel Wilcox and Samuel Rogers, Jr.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*For Newport.*

Mr. George Goulding,  
Mr. Daniel Gould,  
Col. John Cranston,  
Mr. Joseph Whipple,  
Capt. Ezbon Sanford.

*For Providence.*

Mr. John Potter,  
Col. Jabez Bowen,  
Mr. Robert Gibbs,  
Capt. Jonathan Randall.

## DEPUTIES.

*For Portsmouth.*

Mr. Stephen Brownell,  
Mr. Gideon Freeborne,  
Mr. Daniel Howland,  
Mr. Robert Lawton.

*For Warwick.*

Major Joseph Stafford,  
Mr. William Holdon,  
Mr. Jeremiah Lippett,  
Capt. Abel Potter.

*For Westerly.*

Mr. Thomas Hiscox,  
Mr. William Champlin, Jr.

*For New Shoreham.*

Capt. Simon Ray,  
Mr. Henry Gardner.

*For North Kingstown.*

Mr. Job Tripp,  
Mr. John Reynolds.

*For South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
Capt. Ichabod Potter.

*For East Greenwich.*

Mr. Thomas Spencer,  
Capt. Thomas Nichols.

*For Jamestown.*

Capt. Benjamin Sheffield,  
Mr. John Martin.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Resolved Waterman,  
Mr. John Sayles.

*Scituate.*

Mr. Job Randall,  
Mr. Stephen Hopkins,

*Glocester.*

Mr. Edward Mitchell,  
Mr. Richard Steere.

*For Charlestown.*

Mr. Samuel Perry,  
Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. John Greene,  
Mr. Joseph Slocum.

Mr. Stephen Hopkins, speaker.

Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers were declared elected, and duly engaged.

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Capt. Benjamin Ellery,  
Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Ezekiel Warner,  
Mr. Richard Fenner,

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Gideon Cornell,  
Mr. John Dexter,  
Mr. Philip Arnold,

Mr. John Wickes,  
Mr. Christopher Phillips,  
Mr. Rouse Helme.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. James Martin.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Gideon Wanton.

An Act for the better security of the inhabitants at Block Island.

Whereas, in the present war, now subsisting between His Sacred Majesty, the King of Great Britain and the King of Spain : the inhabitants at Block Island (being few in number) lie very much exposed to the depredations of the enemy ;—

For preventing whereof, be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the field officers of each of the respective counties of Providence and Kings county, be empowered to impress and enlist ten good able men out of each of said counties, as soldiers, to be sent to New Shoreham, forthwith ; and as soon as conveniently may be, to be transported at the charge of the colony, and there to remain in His Majesty's service for the space of six months, for the assistance and protection of the inhabitants of said island against the enemy ; which soldiers shall be under the care and command of the captain of said island, and such lieutenant as shall be appointed under him, by His Honor, the Governor ; and such soldiers shall be, by said captain, billeted out, at the charge of the inhabitants of said island, and shall for their reward and service be entitled to receive £3 per month, out of the General Treasury, by a certificate under the hand of the said captain, duly obtained.

An Act for appointing and erecting a court of equity, to hear and determine all appeals in personal actions from the judgment of the superior court.

Whereas, the trial of appeals by the General Assembly, from

judgments given at the superior court of judicature, have, by long experience, been found prejudicial, as well to the parties having their causes determined there, as well as to the government in general, by the public business being neglected ;—

For remedy whereof, for the future, be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act regulating the appeals from the judgments of the superior court to the General Assembly, be, and it is hereby repealed, and declared null and void.

And that for the future, there be a court of equity appointed and established, to consist of five judges, to be chosen annually, by the General Assembly, and to be commissioned, any three of whom, to be a quorum ; who are hereby empowered and authorized to hear all appeals from the judgments of the superior court, in personal actions, and to give a determination on said appeals, by affirming, reversing or altering the judgments of said superior court, agreeably to law and equity, in as full and extensive manner as the General Assembly hath been accustomed to do.

And that said court be held in Newport, to try the appeals from the judgments of the superior court, held at said Newport, the last Tuesday of March, every year, on the fourth Tuesday of April, annually ; and at Providence and South Kingstown, by turns, to try the appeals from the judgments given at the superior court, held the first Tuesday of September, as hath been accustomed by the General Assembly, the second Tuesday of October, annually.

And for the better regulating and governing the parties appealing from the judgments of the superior court, as aforesaid, that where an appeal is had, the party appealing, is hereby obliged to give bond for the prosecution of such appeal ; and to procure a copy of the whole case, and file his reasons of appeal, with the clerk, ten days before the sitting of such court, where the appeal is to be heard and determined ; and that the judgment and determination of said court shall be final, saving an appeal to His Majesty, in council, in those cases wherein the law hath already provided.



And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be one clerk chosen and appointed for the aforesaid court; who is hereby entitled to take the same fees as hath been taken in the trial of appeals by the General Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that Samuel Clarke, John Potter, William Robinson, John Chipman and Thomas Spenser, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed judges of the court of equity, for the hearing and determining of appeals from the judgments of the superior courts; and that James Martin be, and he is hereby appointed clerk of said court.

An Act for hearing and determining all such appeals as bonds have heretofore been given for, from the judgments of the superior courts of judicature.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that all appeals from the judgments of the superior courts of judicature, held on the first Tuesday in September, and the third Tuesday in March last past, shall be heard and determined by the court of equity appointed for the hearing and determining of appeals, at Newport, within and for said colony, on the third Tuesday in July next; which said court shall have full power and authority to determine the same agreeably to law and equity, in as extensive manner as the General Assembly of said colony hath been accustomed to do; and that the reasons of appeal shall be filed in all the appeals from March court past, ten days before the sitting of said court.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the fourth Monday in June, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that the trustees of Ninegret, sachem, render an account of their trust to the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, there was an act passed by the General Assembly, at their session held in September last, empowering three justices of the peace to try civil actions to the value of £5;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that it was not the intent of said act, to extend to bonds given to the general treasurer and grand committee, for the use of the colony, but that all actions brought for such bonds, be tried at the inferior court of common pleas.

It is also voted and resolved, that the officers in this colony, who shall serve any justices' warrants, shall observe the same rules in respect to taking bail, as the several sheriffs are held to by the laws of this colony.

Voted and resolved, that the town of Jamestown, in the county of Newport, be and they are hereby empowered to choose another warden, so as to make three in the whole.

Whereas, George Ninegret, Indian sachem of the Narragansett Indians, humbly requested of this honorable Assembly to appoint George Wanton, of Newport, in the county of Newport, merchant, one of his overseers, he being well assured of his fidelity and justice in the management of his affairs;—

Whereupon, it is voted and ordered, that the said George Wanton be, and he is hereby appointed a trustee or overseer

to the said sachem, to have the same power in all respects with the other trustees.

Voted and resolved, that the order of the King in council, directing the form of prayer for the royal family, be forthwith published in the several churches, and other places of public worship in this colony; and that the secretary send a copy of said order to the minister or elder of each and every society in this colony immediately, for that purpose.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, procure a new seal for the colony, to be engraven with the same motto as the old seal had; and that the secretary procure the old clasped book of records to be new bound; and likewise that he procure a new book of six quires of paper, for the records of the superior court of judicature, &c.; a new book of eight quires of paper, for recording all public things that shall be required to be registered in this colony; and likewise a new book of three quires, for the records of the judgments that shall be made up in the court of equity; and also that the sum of £3 10s. be paid to Jacob Hasey, Jr., for a press made for the files of papers belonging to the superior court of judicature, &c., and that the whole charges be paid out of the general treasury.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tuesday in August, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the west end of the town of Warwick into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Coventry.

Whereas, several of the inhabitants of the town of Warwick, by petition to this Assembly, did set forth the great disadvantage they labor under, on account of the great extent of said town; and as it is conceived it will be more for the ease and benefit of its inhabitants in transacting and negotiating the prudential affairs thereof, to have a division made;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the western part of the town of Warwick be divided and set off from the eastern part thereof, by a north and south line drawn from the most western bounds of the westernmost of the Coweset farms, and incorporated a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Coventry; and that the inhabitants thereof, from time to time, shall have and enjoy the like benefits, liberties, privileges and immunities with other towns in this colony, according to our charter.

Voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to make an account of the whole charges this colony has been at in the controversy between said colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, relating to the eastern boundary of said colony, to be examined by the committee appointed to lay a statement of said controversy before the court of commissioners, before the same is put into said court.

And that Peter Bours, Stephen Hopkins, Thomas Spenser, Daniel Updike and James Honeyman, Jr., Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the several inn-keepers and others, for the entertainment of the persons concerned, and obliged to attend on the said court of commissioners.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Thomas Borden, amounting to £5 14s. 2d., for the entertainment of the honorable lieutenant governor and council of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, at their return from the court held for the trial of the pirates, in October, A. D. 1738, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the act passed at the last April session, restricting the custom house officers from clearing out

any vessels until bond given for landing all provisions, &c., in some English port, be, and it is hereby repealed; and that this colony govern themselves according to the act of Parliament, against the exportation of provisions, and the collector and naval officer of this port to be served with a copy of this vote.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £31, being so much allowed of the account of John Hoyle, for service done relating to the expedition against the Spaniards, be paid him out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Col. Peter Mawny, amounting to £53 10s. 4d., being for his journey, horse-hire, expenses, &c., to and from New York, in order to notify the commissioners appointed by His Majesty, for settling our eastern boundaries, of the arrival of said commission, and to leave a copy thereof with each of them, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Clement Cooper, amounting to £22, being for himself and horse, on a journey to and from New York, in the service of the commission, with Col. Peter Mawney, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the two accounts exhibited by Col. Peter Mawney, respecting the billeting of soldiers, relating to the expedition against the Spaniards, be allowed, as audited by the committee appointed for that purpose; said Peter Mawney's account amounting to £1,135 3s. 11d.; and an account of Hugh Battey, amounting to £122 12s. 7d.; both accounts amounting to £1,257 16s. 6d.; out of which, he has already received from the general treasurer the sum of £1,189, 1s. 11d.; so there remains to be paid to the said Peter Mawney, out of the general treasury, the sum of £68 14s. 7d., to complete the whole of said accounts.

Whereas, Gideon Wanton, Esq., general treasurer of the colony, aforesaid, did represent to this Assembly, the great trouble and difficulty he met with in exchanging of £40,000 in old bills, and halves and quarters of bills in the years 1738 and 1739, of other emissions before, and prayed an allowance

for the same ; and also set forth the great increase of the business of the general treasurer, since the salary was stated, occasioned by several large emissions, and the payment of bounties on several commodities ; praying therefore, that the salary might be augmented ;—

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and enacted, that the said Gideon Wanton be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, the sum of £700, for his trouble in exchanging said £40,000 ; but that his salary be not augmented.

Whereas, our transports were discharged from His Majesty's service, sooner than they should have been, by His Majesty's instructions ;—

It is therefore resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. Geo. Goulding and Joseph Whipple be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to examine into said affair, and procure what is necessary, for His Honor, the Governor, to write to our agent, in Great Britain, directing him to apply to the lords of the admiralty, or to the proper board, for restitution in said affair.

An Act granting power of appealing from all, or any part of the judgment of the court of commissioners relating to our eastern boundaries.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that Peter Bours, Sam'l Clarke, Thomas Spenser, William Jenckes, Stephen Hopkins, Daniel Abbott, Francis Willett, Henry Bull, Daniel Updike, James Honeyman, Jr., Thomas Ward and William Bollan, Esqs., (who were appointed a committee to represent and manage the affairs of this colony before the commissioners to hear and determine the boundaries between said colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay), be, and they or any four of them, are hereby fully authorized and empowered to appear at the aforesaid commissioners' court upon their adjournment on the 4th day of September next, at Providence, then and there, in behalf of this colony, to appeal from the whole, or any part of the judgment of the said commissioners, pronounced on

the 30th day of June last past, as they, the said commitee, shall think proper.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Tuesday in October, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for raising recruits to be transported to the English camp, on the island of Cuba.

Whereas, this government having received advice from Gen. Wentworth,\* that there is an absolute necessity of raising more

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\* From the camp on the river Humber,  
in the island of Cuba, August 12, 1741.

Sir: His Majesty having directed me to use my best endeavors to recruit his forces under my command in his colonies, in North America, I have appointed Capt. Hopkins to repair, for that end, to your province, not doubting of your giving him all the assistance in your power, to levy soldiers, not only for completing Col. Gooch's regiment, but if practicable, to raise a greater number, either to fill all vacancies in the two old corps, and in the marines, or to form another battallion, as it shall be found best for His Majesty's service.

As I have no means of supplying the recruiting officers with money, you will, sir, be pleased to give the aforesaid captain credit for such sums as may be wanted for that service, and to draw upon the Right Honorable Henry Pelham, Esquire, the paymaster general, for the said use. As to the particular sums to be paid to the said recruiting officer, I refer you to his instructions, which he will lay before you.

All such as shall enlist themselves on this occasion, will be entitled to the advantages offered by His Majesty, in his instructions on the first raising Col. Gooch's regiment. I don't doubt, sir, but you will take the proper measures for their being transported hither, to support which charge, I flatter myself the respective prov-

forces for His Majesty's service in the present expedition, against the subjects of the King of Spain, in the West Indies;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a proclamation be issued forthwith by the Governor, as an encouragement for soldiers to enlist, to offer a premium or a bounty of the sum of £5 of the old tenor, and a watch coat to every soldier that shall enlist, and go in his Majesty's service, over and above forty shillings, sterling, allowed as the King's bounty, and the same to be delivered to such soldier, on going aboard the colony sloop, hereby appointed for transporting such forces as shall be raised, to the island of Cuba.

And for the better expediting the levying of the aforesaid forces, the colonels of the respective regiments within this government, are hereby directed to call together the soldiers under their command, at such times as shall be judged most suitable and convenient by Capt. William Hopkins, for the purpose aforesaid.

And it is also further enacted, that Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. George Goulding, John Cranston and Joseph Whipple, be a committee to put on board the colony sloop, a sufficient number of men, in order for the security of said sloop, and to take a cruise after the transports are landed, for the space of three months; and the captain to be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, for that purpose, and to receive and observe such instructions as shall be given him in said affair.

And the aforesaid committee are hereby empowered to procure all necessaries for transporting said forces at the charge of the colony, and to draw out of the general treasury what monies are to be paid to Capt. William Hopkins; and also what is to be paid to the soldiers, and to do all and every

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inces will make a provision, as all His Majesty's dominions in the West Indies, are particularly interested in the success of this expedition.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS WENTWORTH.

To the Honorable Richard Ward, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.



thing that shall be found necessary for transporting said forces; and that as the enlisted soldiers shall be sent to Newport, and delivered to the aforesaid committee, they shall be put on board the colony sloop, and there subsisted at the charge of the government.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the colony sloop sail as soon as so many men present, as the vessel will carry (exclusive of the sailors), or as soon as the above said committee find that all the persons have enlisted and embarked, as are willing to go in the service.

And the aforesaid committee are hereby directed to supply Capt. William Hopkins with a sufficient sum of money, to be by them drawn out of the general treasury, to pay the £4, allowed to the recruiting officer, for each man he shall enlist, agreeable to General Wentworth's letter to His Honor, the Governor, and said Hopkins's instructions; and that the said William Hopkins draw bills of exchange upon the paymaster general, in England, for the same; and that His Honor, the Governor, endorse said bills in behalf of the colony, to any person who shall offer to buy the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of £2,000 of the new tenor, be forthwith struck off, in order to answer the present exigency, and the same to be impressed by Col. John Coddington, and to be signed by the grand committee, as usual; and when finished, to be lodged in the hands of the general treasurer, for the purpose aforesaid, which sum, if not sufficient, the committee are hereby empowered to draw out of the general treasury what interest money is paying in, as their occasions for the purpose aforesaid may require; and that such new bills as shall be made, shall be paid out of the interest money, as the same shall be paid in in order to be burnt.

Whereas, several of the committee appointed by the General Assembly, to attend on His Majesty's court of commissioners, for settling the eastern boundaries of this colony, made application to this Assembly, for some allowance for their time and service in said affair —

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and ordered, that there be allowed out of the general treasury, the following sums to the persons hereinafter named, for their time and service in the above mentioned affair, viz. :

To Col. Daniel Updike, the sum of £125; to Mr. James Honeyman, Jr., the sum of £125; to Capt. Henry Bull, the sum of £80; to Mr. Thomas Ward, the sum of 125; to Mr. Stephen Hopkins, the sum of £73 10s.; to Mr. Thomas Spenser, the sum of £40; and to Peter Bours, Esq., the sum of £110.

Voted and ordered, that Col. Daniel Updike, Mr. James Honeyman, Jr. and Mr. Thomas Ward, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to draw up a statement of the case of the controversy between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, relating to the eastern boundaries of this colony, and present the same to the next session of this Assembly, in order to be sent home.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £10 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Joshua Bertrand, one of the soldiers, who has lost an arm in the King's service, in order to enable him to travel to Boston, or elsewhere, to get a passage home to England.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday of October, 1741.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that George Brown, Esq., re-deliver to His Honor, the deputy governor, the duplicate of the charter, taking a receipt for the same.

*Report upon the Connecticut Boundary.*

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held on the third Tuesday in June last past, did appoint the Hon. William Greene, Esq., Ezekiel Warner, Esq., Messrs. Daniel Abbott, John Jenkins and Ishmael Spink, or the major part of them, to examine whether the boundary marks in the line between said colony, and the colony of Connecticut, at, or near the south west corner of Warwick Purchase, be removed, and make report thereof, which they did in the following manner, viz. :

Therefore, in obedience to the Honorable Assembly, we proceeded, and on the 7th day of July, A. D. 1741, went to the place where Warwick south-west corner was made in the year A. D. 1728 (and revised in the year 1739), which place three of us, viz. : William Greene, Daniel Abbott and Ishmael Spink well remember; we all being present when the commissioners of both governments made said corner in the year 1728, and helped make the same at the place where said commissioners then ordered; and we, together with John Jenkins, were at the revising said corner, in the year 1739; and we all well remember the place, it being remarkable where said corner was made; it being a large heap of stones, in the edge of a swamp; and said Ezekiel Warner being now present, with the rest of the committee, and sundry other persons, who declared that they were at the making and revising said corner, and did all show said Warner the place where said corner was made; and also several trees round about it, that were marked with sundry letters, some of which are now on said trees; and some appear to be cut out. Now we found the said heap of stones, to be all removed and gone from said place; but found the two first mile monuments northward and southward of said corner, to be both standing in their proper places, where they were first made; and we found a large heap of stones, made about two rods and a half, or something more, to the eastward of the place, where said Warwick corner was made, near in the course of Warwick line, and upon the upland, upon a sort of knoll, and near the east side of a very large pitch pine tree; the which tree is now marked with the letters **D.A. J.J. W.G.**, by whom, we know not, for we never saw them before, nor was there any heap of stones at said place at any time, when any of us were there before.

And whereas, three of us, viz. : Daniel Abbott, John Jenkins and William Greene, who were a committee on the part of this colony, to revise the bounds between said colony and the colony of Connecticut, did do the same in the year 1739, and then reported to the Honorable General Assembly of said colony, that we found the heap of stones that was made at Warwick corner, in the year 1728, to be removed, and gone from the place where it was made; and that we then, in the presence of near twenty men, made a large heap of stones, in the same place where the former heap was made, near the east side of a tree, which (through a mistake) we then called a pitch pine tree; and said tree we then marked with the two first letters of our names, viz. : **D.A. J.J. W.G.**; and there was then on said tree an old mark, on the east side thereof, below where we made the abovesaid letters, which was cut through the bark, so that it was grown partly up; but could then plainly see a letter **B**, which letter, with all the abovesaid letters, we all now saw on the same tree. And although the bark of said tree looks very much like a pitch pine, yet, upon a more particular and strict examination thereof, we all find the

same tree to be a white pine tree. It is a middling tree for bigness, something tall; but does not appear to be a very thrifty tree; it is something crooked, and the rounding part of the crook hangs towards the north-west.

All which is humbly submitted to the Honorable General Assembly, as the report of

WILLIAM GREENE,  
EZEKIEL WARNER,  
DANIEL ABBOTT,

JOHN JENKINS,  
ISHMAEL SPINK.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

Whereas, Col. Daniel Updike, Messrs. James Honeyman, Jr. and Thomas Ward, at the last session of this Assembly, were appointed a committee to draw up a statement of the case relating to the controversy between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, respecting the eastern bounds of this colony, which being not yet done;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that they be still continued, for the purpose aforesaid, with the addition of Peter Bours and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., they, or the major part of them to draw up the same as soon as may be, to be examined by His Honor, the Governor, and so many of his council as shall be present, and then forthwith sent home by His Honor, the Governor.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £200 be forthwith sent home to our agent, in Great Britain, to enable him to carry on the appeal from the judgment of the court of commissioners, relating to our eastern boundaries (and other occasions of the colony); and that Messrs. Peter Bours, George Goulding and Joseph Whipple, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to draw money sufficient out of the general treasury; and procure said sum in silver, gold or bills of exchange, and send the same, with the said appeal; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to the said agent, urging him to use his best endeavors to procure a decree for our demands, in respect to said eastern boundaries.

Whereas, divers inhabitants of the town of Newport, in the county of Newport, did petition this honorable Assembly, for liberty to erect an artillery company in said town, to choose

their officers, with several other privileges in said petition contained ;—

It is thereupon voted and ordered, that Peter Bours, Esq., Col. John Cranston and Mr. Josias Lyndon, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to draw up a charter for constituting said artillery company, and present the same to the next session of this Assembly.

Upon the petition of sundry inhabitants of the town of Providence, in the county of Providence ;—

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £80, be, and it is hereby allowed towards the building of Pawtucket bridge ; and that Capt. William Burrough draw the same out of the general treasury, when said bridge is completed.

Voted and resolved, that that part of the act of the General Assembly, passed at their last session, directing the sloop *Tartar* to take a cruise after the soldiers were landed (that are to be transported in her to the camp on the island of Cuba), be, and it is hereby repealed ; and that the committee then appointed, put a sufficient number of men upon wages, on board said sloop, for her security ; and also that said sloop be ordered to return as soon as possible, after said soldiers are landed there.

Whereas, the General Assembly of the colony aforesaid, at their session, held on the third Tuesday in August last, did, among other things, enact that the west end of the town of Warwick, in the county of Providence, should be set off and incorporated into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Coventry, and for that purpose, appointed Daniel Abbott, John Potter and Thomas Spenser, Esqs., a committee to divide the same, who have made the following report, viz. :

*Report of the Committee on the new town of Coventry.*

We having met in said Warwick, on the 24th day of August last past, and proceeded to run said line, beginning at the westernmost part of the Coweset Farms, in said Warwick, and from thence run one line south, seven degrees west, until we came to the north bounds of East Greenwich, and the south bounds of said War-

wick, where we made a large heap of stones, making several heaps of stones in the said line, and marking several trees in said line, with the letter W on the east, and the letter C on the west; then beginning at the first mentioned bounds, and run north seven degrees east, until we came to the north bounds of said Warwick, and the south bounds of Providence, making a large heap of stones on the east end of a rock, in said bounds, and made several heaps of stones, and marked several trees in said line, as aforesaid; the which, we now make as our return for the fixed and certain bounds between the aforesaid town of Warwick and the aforesaid town of Coventry; and that the said town of Coventry be bounded east on the town of Warwick, south on East and West Greenwich, west on the line that divides the colony of Rhode Island, &c., and the colony of Connecticut; and north, on the south bounds of the towns of Providence and Scituate.

Which report is voted to be accepted.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £62 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Col. Daniel Abbott, being for his service in attending the court of commissioners, relating to the eastern boundaries, and other expenses on said affair.

Upon the petition of sundry persons, relating to a highway in Wecacheconet, in the township of Warwick, in the county of Providence;—

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Hopkins, John Jenkins and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to view and inspect into the circumstance of the aforesaid highway, and make report to the next session of this Assembly.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the 1st day of February, 1741-42.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Rouse Helme, Esq., Messrs. Jeremiah Lippett and Job Tripp, Jr., were appointed a committee to audit the ac-

counts of Col. Joseph Stanton, one of the trustees of the Indian sachem, and to make report thereon, which they accordingly did; and reported that they found a balance due to the said Joseph Stanton, of £142 12s. 3*d.*, that he had advanced more than received, on account of the said sachem.

Whereas, Mathew Robinson, of Newport, in the county of Newport, presented an account to this General Assembly, as one of the clerks in the late commissioners' court, respecting the eastern boundaries, for his daily attendance on said court, book of records, horse-hire, expenses, &c., craving an allowance and payment thereof;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the sum of £166 3*s.* 6*d.*, be allowed and paid to the said Mathew Robinson, by the committee appointed to pay the charges arising on said court.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £10, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the executors of John Wickes, Esq., deceased, being for the General Assembly's sitting at his house in Warwick, several times, and for fire-wood and attendance at said times.

Whereas, upon the settlement between this colony, and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, of the accounts relating to the controversy about the boundaries, there was a balance due to this colony of £173 16*s.* 1*d.*;—

It is therefore resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to write to Samuel Wells, Esq., to urge the payment of said balance, and receive the same.

Voted and resolved, that Col. John Cranston, Messrs. Josias Lyndon and James Martin, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of Peter Bours and William Ellery, Esqs., Messrs. George Goulding and Joseph Whipple, who were the persons appointed to draw money out of the general treasury to defray the charges of the commissioners, &c., and make report to the next session of this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that Mr. Samuel Perry, be, and he is hereby dismissed from being a trustee to George Ninegret, the Indian sachem, the said sachem having desired the same.

Voted and resolved, that James Honeyman, Jr. and Thomas Ward, Esqs., and James Martin, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to revise the laws of this colony, in order that the same may be re-printed in a suitable time.

Whereas, the preservation of this colony in time of war, depends, under God, chiefly upon the military skill and discipline of the inhabitants; and it being necessary, in order to revive and perpetuate the same, to form and establish a military company, which, by acquainting and accustoming themselves to the military exercises by more frequent trainings, than the body of the people can attend, may serve for a nursery of skillful officers; and in time of an actual invasion, by their superior skill and experience may render the whole militia more useful and effectual;—

And whereas, a number of the principal inhabitants of the town of Newport, viz.: Jahleel Brenton, Godfrey Malbone, Samuel Wickham, Henry Collins, John Gidley, James Honeyman, Jr., John Brown, Nathaniel Coddington, Jr., Peleg Brown, Charles Bardin, Simon Pease, David Chesebrough, Philip Wilkinson, John Freebody, Jr., Thomas Wickham, Walter Cranston, Sueton Grant and William Vernon, have freely offered themselves to begin, and with such others as shall be added to them, to form such a company; and by their humble petition, have prayed this Assembly to grant them a charter, with such privileges, and under such restrictions and limitations, as the Assembly shall think proper;—

Wherefore, this Assembly, for the reasons and considerations aforesaid, and in order that all due encouragement may be given to the laudable and useful design of the petitioners, have ordained, constituted and granted, and by these presents do ordain, constitute and grant, that they, the said petitioners, Jahleel Brenton, Godfrey Malbone, Samuel Wickham, Henry Collins, John Gidley, James Honeyman, Jr., John Brown, Nathaniel Coddington, Jr., Peleg Brown, Charles Bardin, Simon Pease, David Chesebrough, Philip Wilkinson, John Freebody, Jr., Thomas Wickham, Walter Cranston, Sueton Grant and William Vernon, together with such others as shall be hereaf-



ter added to them (not exceeding the number of one hundred in the whole, officers included), be, and they are hereby declared to be a military company, by the name of the Artillery Company, of the town of Newport; and by that name, they shall have perpetual succession, and shall have and enjoy all the rights, powers and privileges in this grant hereafter mentioned.

[The charter of this company is omitted here.]

[The following public laws passed in the year 1741, will be found printed at length in the public laws of 1744, except those designated as repealed.]

An Act for the more effectual putting the colony in a proper posture of defence.

An Act for regulating the laying out highways in the several towns of this colony.

An Act for equipping the colony's sloop, and sending her out on a cruise, &c.

An Act for laying an embargo on vessels (bound to sea) on any emergent occasion.

An Act for prohibiting the exportation of provisions and naval stores to any foreign ports.

An Act empowering the town council of each town within this colony, to bind out as apprentices, poor children, that are likely to become chargeable to the town wherein they live.

An Act for ascertaining the board wages of all persons that shall be employed to work at Fort George. (Repealed.)

An Act made in addition to an act, entitled "An act made in addition to, and in amendment of an act passed September, 1740, for the emission of £20,000, in bills of public credit."

An Act for striking off £2,000 in bills of public credit of the new tenor, for the supply of the general treasury.

An Act for lengthening the time of vessels' cruising, that are employed in the colony's service.

An Act in addition to an act, appointing court martials within this colony.

An Act for appointing and erecting a court of equity, to hear and determine all appeals in personal actions from the judgments of the superior court.

An Act in addition to an act entitled "An act for establishing vendue masters throughout this colony."

An Act for incorporating the west end of the town of Warwick into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Coventry.

An Act for emitting £2,000 of the new tenor, for defraying the charge of raising and transporting a number of recruits to the English camp on the island of Cuba.

An Act for hearing and determining all such appeals, as bonds shall be given for, from the judgments of the superior court of judicature, held by adjournment in September, 1741. (Repealed.)

An Act for calling in and exchanging the £24,000, emitted by this colony in the year 1740.

An Act enabling George Ninegret, sachem, to sell some land in the Narragansett country, for the payment of his just debts.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 4th day of May, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,	Mr. John Dexter,
Mr. William Ellery,	Mr. Daniel Howland,
Mr. Richard Fenner,	Mr. Christopher Phillips.

Mr. William Robinson, speaker.  
Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Voted, that the following be admitted freemen of this colony :

Of Newport, Clothier Pearce, Jr., William Wiatt, Grindall, Thurst n Gideon Cornell, Seth Luther, George Cornell, son of William ; Charles Wickbam, John Sherman, Samuel Tillinghast, James Milward, John Dawby, Joseph Cowley, Thomas Davenport, Joseph Stacey, Aaron Sutton, Benjamin Clarke, John Curtain, Peleg Chapman, Peter Bowdoin, Francis Pope, Thomas Freebody, Joseph Thurston, John Dennis and John Brewer.

Of Providence, Stephen Hopkins, John Angel, the 3d, Elijah Dean, Nathan Mathewson, Jonathan Olney, Timothy Mason, John Wanton, John Colwell, Joshua Remington, Edward Thurber, John Johnson, Richard Smith, Israel Gibbs, Roger Kinnicutt and Samuel Curry.

Of Portsmouth, William Earle, Jr., Francis Brayton and Samuel Pearce.

Of Warwick, William Wood, Robert Westgate, Jr., Joseph Phillip, Increase Greene and Edward Case.

Of North Kingstown, Arthur Aylesworth, son of Philip ; Philip Card, Samuel Thomas, James Fowler, Benjamin Burdick, Robert Nichols and Ezekiel Sheffield.

Of South Kingstown, Jeoffrey Hassard, Roger Mowrey, Stephen Cotterel, Jr., George Gardner, Jr., William Taylor, Tenant Tift, Thomas Hassard, son of Robert ; Thomas Browning and William Hassard.

Of East Greenwich, Caleb Vaughan and Thomas Nichols, son of Thomas.

Of Jamestown, John Carr and John Clarke, tanner.

Of Scituate, Joseph Wilkinson, Charles Beers, Benjamin Taylor, William King, John Stafford and Hezekiah Walker.

Of Gloucester, Thomas Field, Abner Bartlett and Hezekiah Mitchell.

Of Charlestown, Thomas Gould, Joseph Tanner, Enoch Lewis and Joseph Card.

Of West Greenwich, Thomas Draper, James Reynolds, son of Francis ; Jacob Lewis and John Albro.

Of Coventry, Aaron Bowen, Samuel Cook, John Atherton, Benjamin Blanchard, Ebenezer Perkins, Joseph Carpenter, Adam Love, Daniel Welch, Samuel Cook, Jr., Joseph Sweet, Joseph Arnold, Gabriel Love, James Stronnihorn, Richard Herendon, William Bennett and Mathew Roberts.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday in May, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. Willian Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*For Newport.*

Mr. George Goulding,  
Mr. Daniel Gould,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Col. John Cranston,  
Mr. Joseph Whipple,  
Capt. Ezbon Sanford.

*For Providence.*

Col. Daniel Abbott,  
Mr. William Burton,  
Col. Jabez Bowen,  
Capt. Jonathan Randall.

## DEPUTIES.

*For Portsmouth.*

Mr. John Lawton,  
 Capt. Jeremiah Lawton,  
 Mr. Robert Lawton,  
 Mr. Wm. Anthony, Jr.

*For Warwick.*

Major Joseph Stafford,  
 Mr. John Rhodes,  
 Capt. Wm. Rice,  
 Mr. Barlow Greene.

*For Westerly.*

Mr. William Champlin, Jr.,  
 Capt. John Maxon.

*For New Shoreham.*

Mr. Edward Sands,  
 Mr. William Rock.

*For North Kingstown.*

Mr. John Reynolds,  
 Col. Immanuel Northup.

*For South Kingstown.*

Mr. Wm. Robinson,  
 Mr. Jonathan Hassard.

*For East Greenwich.*

Mr. John Spenser, Jr.,  
 Mr. John Fry.

*For Jamestown.*

Capt. Benjamin Sheffield,  
 Capt. Josiah Arnold.

*For Smithfield.*

Mr. James Aldrich,  
 Mr. John Sayles.

*For Scituate.*

Mr. Job Randall,  
 Mr. Thomas Realph.

*For Gloucester.*

Capt. John Smith,  
 Mr. Richard Steere.

*For Charlestown.*

Mr. Samuel Perry,  
 Capt. Christopher Champlin.

*For West Greenwich.*

Mr. John Spenser,  
 Mr. Joseph Slocum.

*For Coventry.*

Capt. Abel Potter,  
 Mr. Robert Greene.

Mr. William Robinson, speaker.

Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers were declared elected, and duly engaged.

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,  
 Mr. William Ellery,  
 Mr. Ezekiel Warner,  
 Mr. Richard Fenner,  
 Mr. John Dexter,

Mr. Daniel Howland,  
 Mr. Philip Arnold,  
 Capt. James Arnold,  
 Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
 Mr. Rouse Helme.

SECRETARY.

Mr. James Martin.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Gideon Wanton.

His Honor, the Governor, took the oath to the acts of trade and navigation, in presence of the general council.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Deputy Governor and Col. Daniel Abbott, be a committee to join with a committee to be appointed by the General Assembly of the colony of Connecticut, in order to erect a large monument at Warwick south-west corner, in the line between this colony, and the said colony of Connecticut, in the same place that was settled and agreed upon by committees appointed by both said colonies, some years past; and that His Honor, the Governor, or deputy governor, write to the government of Connecticut, desiring them to appoint a committee to meet our committee at said place, at such time as they shall appoint; and if it shall so happen, that no committee of said colony of Connecticut, do not meet our said committee, at the time and place, aforesaid, then they are to proceed ex parte, and erect a monument in the place above mentioned.

Whereas, John Potter, of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, did, by petition to this Assembly, set forth, that at the superior court of judicature, &c., held at Newport, within and for said colony, on the last Tuesday in March past, he was sentenced to stand in the pillory five times, or pay five several fines, amounting in the whole to £10,000, the last payment to be made, or punishment suffered to be on the 21st day of June next; and being desirous to avoid suffering the infamous punishment, aforesaid (it being a thing impracticable to raise so large a sum within so short a time), prayed that he might have the liberty of paying in gold dust at £20 per ounce, into the general treasury, the sum of £5,000, being the one-half of his several fines; and that thereupon this honorable Assembly would please to allow a further time for the payment of the other half into the general treasury, he giving good security for that purpose;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said petitioner, John Potter, have the liberty of paying the sum of £5,000 (being one-half of all his fines), into the general treasury, in gold dust, at £20 per ounce; and that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to examine said gold dust, with the general treasurer, to see that the same is merchantable; and that upon the petitioner's so doing, he have a further time granted, until the 8th day of October, next ensuing, for the payment of the other £5,000, being the remaining half of all his fines, he giving bond to the general treasurer of this colony, with two sufficient sureties, to pay the same at the said time.

Whereas, the inhabitants of New Shoreham, in the county of Newport, did set forth, that they were under difficult circumstances respecting their piers, the old one being almost destroyed, and the new one barred up, occasioned by great storms in the winter seasons; and as the said piers are not only of great service to the said inhabitants, but to all others living within the government, the same being convenient for boats and small vessels to harbor in; and as your petitioners have been at great charges to repair the same, and their endeavors have hitherto proved fruitless, by the frequent storms that have happened, before the same could be completed, therefore prayed this General Assembly to allow them so much money (towards building the pier) as was allowed last summer to the soldiers sent there, for their assistance, and that they would lessen that charge by doing more duty themselves;—

Whereupon, it is voted and ordered, that the sum of £200 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Capt. Edw. Sands, for the uses and purposes aforesaid.

Whereas, Col. John Cranston (as captain of Fort George), did present to this General Assembly, an account for his own service; the last year, and for the service and allowance of board wages, to the gunner, and two other men at said fort, from the 1st day of November, 1741, to the 1st day of May instant, being six months, and amounting to the sum of £220 16s., craving an allowance thereof;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said sum of £220 16s., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said John Cranston, for him to pay the said gunner and two other men, their several parts thereof.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 21st day of June, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £15 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Benjamin Ellery and Peter Bours, Esqs., being for their trouble in procuring and chartering the sloop Olive Branch, Aaron Sheffield, master, for purchasing the provisions and stores in said sloop, to accommodate the honorable commissioners from Nova Scotia.

Whereas, Benjamin Ellery and Peter Bours, Esqs., Messrs. Joseph Whipple and Josias Lyndon, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts respecting the billeting of soldiers in the county of Newport, that were raised in this colony, to go against the Spaniards, and the charges accruing thereon, did report that they had examined the several accounts relating thereto, and found the whole of the amount of the said accounts exhibited by Col. John Gardner, to be £3070 18s. 4d.;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted (saving one article of £17 10s. for the board of Sergeant Welsh's wife, paid James Davis, which is rejected), the persons exhibiting said accounts, having received full satisfaction for the same.

Whereas, Benjamin Ellery and Peter Bours, Esqs., Messrs.



Joseph Whipple and Josias Lyndon were appointed a committee to audit the accounts respecting the billeting of soldiers in the county of Kings county, that were raised in this colony, to go on an expedition against the Spaniards, and the charges accruing thereon, did report that they had examined the several accounts relating thereto, and found the whole of the amount of said accounts exhibited by Col. Joseph Stanton, to be £541 2s. ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted, the persons exhibiting said accounts, having received full satisfaction for the same.

Whereas, Benjamin Ellery and Peter Bours, Esqs., Messrs. Joseph Whipple and Josias Lyndon, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the charges arising on the transports hired by this government, to convey the soldiers to General Wentworth's camp on the island of Cuba, did report that they had examined the several accounts exhibited, and found the same amounted to £2,797 7s. 4d. ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted, the persons exhibiting said accounts, having already received full satisfaction for the same.

Whereas, the General Assembly have ordered a new impression of bills of public credit, for exchanging the late emission of bills of the new tenor, some of the which have been counterfeited, and persons appointed to exchange the same, and a great part of the new impression being now finished and ready for exchanging ;—

It is therefore resolved, that all persons possessed of any of said bills of the late emission of the new tenor, be, and they are hereby directed to bring the same to be exchanged by the persons appointed for that purpose, by the 25th day of October next; and that after that time, the currency of said bills be stopped, if any remain out; and that the same be inserted in the public prints, together with the names of the persons appointed to exchange the same.

Voted, that James Honeyman, Jr. and Daniel Updike, Esqs., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, the sum of

£150, each, for their extraordinary services in the prosecution of sundry criminals for counterfeiting the bills of public credit, emitted by this colony.

Upon the petition of Thomas Potter, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, craving an allowance for entertaining and looking after one Francisco Lorenzo (master of a Spanish privateer), brought into this colony by Capt. Benjamin Norton, in his privateer sloop, called the Revenge, and ordered into the custody of the said Thomas Potter, by His Honor, the Governor, on the 1st day of March last past;—

Whereupon, it is voted and ordered, that the sum of fifty shillings per week, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said Thomas Potter, for his entertainment and care of the said Francisco Lorenzo, from the said 1st day of March last past, during his stay with the said Thomas Potter.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £30 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Thomas Potter, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, for his time and expenses on the several examinations of sundry persons apprehended for counterfeiting the bills of public credit of this colony, and apprehending sundry persons concerned therein.

Voted and resolved, that John Frye, Esq., be, and he is hereby chosen one of the trustees to the Indian sachem, in the room of his father, Thomas Frye, Esq., who desired to resign.

This Assembly is adjourned till the second Monday in September next; but if there do not a sufficient number of members appear that day to constitute an Assembly, then the next day; and that every member that does not appear the first day, be fined ten shillings, unless he can make a reasonable excuse.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Tuesday in September, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

The following appropriations were made for bridges :

For a bridge over Pacatuck river, on the road toward the White Plain, £50 ; for a bridge on Massacachuage river, in East Greenwich, £30 ; for repairing and fitting up the bridge over Moosup river, on the road leading from Providence to Connecticut, £50 ; for mending bridge in the town of Providence, £50 ; for repairing two bridges across Pawcatuck river, in Westerly, £50 ; for building a bridge over Pawtuxet river, on the road that leads from Coventry to Plainfield, Connecticut, £40.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, it has been represented to this General Assembly, that Pawcatuck bridge is so much out of repair, as renders it dangerous to pass over, and it being in one of the greatest

roads in this government, there is an absolute necessity of a speedy repair;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joshua Champlin and Silas Greenman, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to repair the one-half of said Pawcatuck bridge, at the charge of this colony, as soon as conveniently may be.

Voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to procure passages for the Spanish prisoners (who were officers), brought into this colony; and send them away at the charge of said colony, upon the best terms he can.

Voted and resolved, that Col. Daniel Updike, being one of the grand committee of this colony, William Arnold and David Comstock, Esqs., justices of the peace, be, and they are hereby appointed and directed to attend the trial of such persons as are to be tried for counterfeiting the bills of public credit of said colony, at the next court of assize, to be held in the county of Essex, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay; and that the secretary deliver what counterfeit bills he has in his hands to said Col. Updike, to be carried with him to said court.

Whereas, Col. John Cranston (as captain of Fort George), did present to this General Assembly, an account of the service, and allowance of board wages to the gunner and eleven other men (besides Valentine Downing), from the 5th day of May last past, to the 5th day of November, ensuing, and for wood laid in for the use of the soldiers in the ensuing winter, amounting in the whole to, £606 16s., craving an allowance thereof;—

Whereupon, it was voted and resolved, that the said sum of £606 16s., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said John Cranston.

Whereas, Messrs. Stephen Hopkins, James Aldrich, Jeffry Hassard, John Smith and Robert Hall, were, by the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held by adjournment, on the second Tuesday in September, last past, appointed a committee, they, or any three of them, to inspect into the cir-

cumstances of the old highway and new highway, in Warwick, in the county of Providence, about which there has been a long controversy ;—

And whereas, Messrs. Stephen Hopkins, Robert Hall, James Aldrich and Jeffry Hassard, four of the aforesaid committee, having made inspection into the premises, aforesaid, made the following report, viz. :

*Report of the committee on the Providence and Warwick highway.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, at their session held at Newport, on the second Tuesday in September last past, to inspect into the circumstances of the old highway, and the new highway, in the lands of Natick and Wecacheconet, and we having met for that purpose, and viewed the several highways, and places proposed for highways, which were shown to us by the parties concerned, do report : that the highway laid out by the jury in said lands, A. D. 1737, not reaching to the north line of the said town of Warwick, near the south-east corner of the town of Scituate, we are of opinion that the same ought to be continued unto the said north line of the said town of Warwick, in the most convenient manner, that may be, in order to meet the highway laid out in said Scituate ; and we further report, by the free consent and loving agreement of all the parties concerned in the above said highway, at, and near Pawtuxet river, that a highway may be laid out to cross the river about mid-way between the said old and new highways, at a place called the round hill, to turn out of the said new highway in the lands of John Holdon, at, or near a pair of bars, in said Holdon's farm, and so to extend through said Holdon's land, on a north-westerly course, according as we have marked the same, until it comes to the bank of said river, where we marked a black oak tree for a bound, on the easterly side of the way ; and from thence to cross the said river, to the lands of Andrew Barton, where we marked a walnut pole, on the easterly side of the way ; and from thence, still north-westerly, to an apple tree, near said Barton's house, on the west side of the way ; and from thence, a little easterly from the said old way, until it comes near to the top of the hill, by said Barton's house ; and from thence, in the said old way, until it meets with the new one.

We are also of opinion, that near the banks of said river, said way ought to be five poles wide, at least ; and that in all other parts of said way, from Warwick north line, downward, to Capt. John Rice's, three pole wide is sufficient.

We are also of opinion, that, upon the establishing of the way now proposed, that the old highway and new highway may be declared to be no highways, where this way doth not go in either of them ; and that the lands of the said highways thrown up, return to the owner or owners thereof ; and the said Andrew Barton is allowed a drift-way, down by the said river-side, to some meadow shares, that be a little below said old way, on the north side of said " River."

All which, being read to the parties concerned, they have consented to the same ; which is submitted to Your Honors's consideration.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

And that the said Stephen Hopkins, Messrs. John Rhodes and William Rice, be a committee to lay out the highway, according thereunto, make a plat thereof and report thereon to the next session of this Assembly.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the fourth Monday in November, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. Daniel Updike, James Honeyman, Jr., Thomas Ward, Edward Scott and Josias Lyndon, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to revise the laws of this colony as soon as conveniently may be, in order that the same may be re-printed, and a printed copy to be sent home.

Whereas, Messrs. William Holdon, John Rhodes and William Rice, were, by the General Assembly, at their session, in October last past, appointed a committee, to inspect into a highway laid out by the town of Smithfield, in the county of Providence, through the lands of John Sayles, and others, petitioners for said alteration in said highway, did make the following report, viz :

We, having viewed said way, and the lands adjacent, and heard the pleas of the respective parties, are of opinion, that no other place showed to us by any of the petitioners was so good for a highway, as where it is already laid out by said town.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that said report be ac-

cepted ; and that the said highway be, and remain as it is already laid out by the said town of Smithfield ; and that the account of the said committee, amounting to £15 12s. 10d., for their service performed, as aforesaid, be paid to the said William Holdon, John Rhodes and William Rice, by the said John Sayles and Jonathan Mowrey, both of Smithfield, aforesaid, being two of the petitioners.

Whereas, Isaac Anthony, of Newport, in the county of Newport, goldsmith, exhibited an account to this General Assembly, for the board of four gentlemen, Spanish prisoners, for nine weeks, and their washing at fifty-five shillings per week, each, craving an allowance thereof ;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the sum of thirty shillings per week, and no more, be allowed of said account, for the nine weeks' board and washing ; and that the same, amounting to £54, be allowed and paid to the said Isaac Anthony, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, almost all the free-holders of the woods part of the town of Newport, did, by petition, set forth to this Assembly, that the town of Newport, at present, is very large, consisting of a vast number of inhabitants, and of freemen, upwards of five hundred, so that the affairs thereof cannot be managed with that regularity, order or justice, as it might be, if the same was divided and made into two towns, and would therefore be of great advantage to all the inhabitants ; for as the compact part of said town consists chiefly of merchants and tradesmen, it would be their interest to make such suitable prudential acts for the better government of their affairs, so likewise as the woods part of said town consists of farmers, proper prudential laws and orders would be made suitable for their condition and circumstances without opposition, which, as yet, hath not been observed.

The petitioners also apprehend they are greatly injured, being obliged to bear a greater proportion of the public charge and expense of said town, than the other inhabitants, without being taken notice of as such, in other respects, and likely so

to continue, as long as said town remains undivided; and thereupon prayed for a division of said town.

The compact part of said town of Newport, being cited, and both parties fully heard, and the petition maturely considered;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that Daniel Coggeshall, Samuel Clarke, Francis Willett, William Robinson and Josiah Arnold, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to inspect into the circumstances of said town of Newport, and see if there be a necessity of dividing the same; and if there be, in what manner, and make report thereon, to the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, Edmond Sheffield, of North Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, yeoman (in behalf of himself and John Gould, of North Kingstown, aforesaid), and Job Tripp, of said North Kingstown, Esq., and attorney to the town council of said town, at the General Assembly, held by adjournment, in September last past, did agree to leave the inspection of part of the highway mentioned in said Sheffield's petition, the same to begin at a black oak tree, standing on the eastern side of said highway, in the first elbow thereof, on the north side of said Sheffield's south farm; and from thence, to the north-east corner of Isaac Gardner's farm (in said petition mentioned), where said Gardner now lives, all the rest of said petition being dropped; the same to be made by Rouse Helme, of South Kingstown, in Kings county, Esq., George Babcock, of said South Kingstown, yeoman and John Hicks, of Charlestown, in said county of Kings county, Esq., and they or either two of them, to make report thereon, which they accordingly did, in the following manner, viz.:

We, being appointed by the General Assembly, to inspect into part of a highway, which was lately laid out by a jury, appointed by the town council of said North Kingstown, viz.: that part of the said highway that runs through the land of said Edmond Sheffield, in particular from a certain black oak tree, to Isaac Gardner's north-east corner; and we having this day viewed the land, and deliberately considered the premises, do give it as our opinion, that the highway that runs southward from said black oak tree, shall run the same course as was laid out by said jury, by a chesnut tree, marked; and so to continue the same course from said



chestnut tree, to said Isaac Gardner's line, and then to run by said Gardner's line, eastward, to his aforesaid corner; but the highway to be taken out of said Sheffield's land.

Which report was thereupon voted to be accepted, and the said highway to be, and continue agreeably thereto.

Whereas, John Lawton and Barlow Greene, did, by petition, set forth to this Assembly, that the establishing a ferry from the landing place, in said Lawton's farm, at Portsmouth, in said colony, to the southern part of Prudence island, belonging to Benjamin and William Brown; and another from Warwick Neck, to the northern end of said Prudence island, would be greatly serviceable to the public, by furnishing the north-western parts of this colony, and those of the neighboring governments with a more easy and better passage to Newport, the metropolis of this colony, than is possible to obtain from any of the ferries now settled at other places; the lands being more smooth and level, the way by land and water more direct and much shorter; and as all the parties concerned, are not only willing, but very desirous such ferries may be made, therefore, the petitioners prayed that ferries may be erected and appointed at the places aforesaid;—

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and enacted, that there be ferries at the places above mentioned; and that the committee appointed to lease out the ferries, put the ferries now granted, under the same regulations as the others are.

[The following public laws, passed during the year 1742, (except those subsequently repealed) will be found printed at length in the Public Laws of 1744.]

An Act for hearing all appeals (not yet determined) from the judgment of the superior court of judicature, for which bonds have been given.

An Act relative to the proceedings and trials of actions not exceeding forty shillings.

An Act for establishing petit jurors' fees; and also the grand and petit jurors' fines, for their non-appearance at the several courts.

- An Act directing the general treasurer how to sue for the colony's debts, and likewise for choosing a king's attorney.
- An Act requiring the king's attornies to account to the general treasurer for all the bonds received, &c.
- An Act for the more effectual establishing of a military watch in time of war, throughout the colony.
- An Act empowering the several town councils to have the care and oversight of all delirious, distracted or non-compos mentis persons, and their estates.
- An Act for the better regulating the choice of petit jurors, throughout the several towns in this colony.
- An Act for the better regulation of freemen voting.
- An Act empowering the vendue masters of the several towns to call special courts.
- An Act enabling persons in small causes, to sue in towns where they dwell.
- An Act to prevent the fish being stopped in their course up Pawcatuck river.
- An Act appointing the several town meetings for choosing deputies, and proxing for general officers in this colony, to be held on the same days.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, the second Tuesday in March, 1742.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the west end of the town of North Kingstown into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Exeter.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the town of North Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, be divided into two towns, by a line beginning at the south side of said town, at the middle of the highway that runs between the farm, now or late of Jeoffry Hassard and the farm of Eber Shearman, to extend from thence northwardly, to the extent of said highway, as the same runs northwardly; and from the middle of said way, where it meets the cross highway, to extend northwardly, in a straight line, to meet the highway that runs between the land of William Hall and Christopher Spenser; and from thence, to extend northwardly, as said highway runs to East Greenwich south line; and that the eastward part of said town retain the charter and name of North Kingstown, and the western part to be called by the name of Exeter, and be incorporated into a township; and to have and enjoy the like privileges with other towns in this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each town receive, and have a proportion of the money in, and belonging to the treasury of said North Kingstown, according to the money for which the lands in each town is mortgaged to the colony; and that all justices living within the bounds of said new town, retain their authority, and act as such therein, until the next general election.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held by adjournment, at East Greenwich, on the fourth Monday in November last past, did order and appoint, that Daniel Coggeshall, Samuel Clarke, Francis Willett, William Robinson and Josiah Arnold, Esqs., they, or the major part of them, to be a committee to inspect into the circumstances of the town of Newport, in the county of Newport, and to see if there was any necessity of dividing the same, and if there was, in what manner, and to make report thereon, to this present session of this Assembly;—

And whereas, Daniel Coggeshall, Francis Willett and Josiah Arnold, Esqs., three (and the major part of said committee) did meet at Newport, aforesaid, and upon hearing the reasons and

allegations of the several persons both for and against the division of said town, made the following report :

That they were of opinion, there was no necessity for dividing the aforesaid town of Newport.

Which report was thereupon voted to be accepted ; and also, that the account of Jonathan Nichols, amounting to £2 10s., for the expenses of said committee, be allowed ; and that there be allowed and paid to the said Daniel Coggeshall and Francis Willett, the sum of £4 each, and to the said Josiah Arnold, the sum of £2, for their particular service in said affair ; and the whole to be paid out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held at Providence, on the last Wednesday in October, A. D. 1742, appointed Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Messrs. John Rhodes and William Rice, a committee, to lay out a highway in the lands of Natick and Wecacheconet, in the town of Warwick, and county of Providence, according to the report by the committee then made, and make a plat thereof ; which they have now done, and presented to this Assembly, agreeably to said report, as deciphered upon the said plat may appear ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that said plat and report thereon made, be accepted ; and that said highway continue as thereon laid out, forever.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held by adjournment on the fourth Monday in November last past, at East Greenwich, within and for the colony aforesaid, did appoint Messrs. Daniel Abbott, John Frye and Ishmael Spink, a committee, to meet with the committee of the colony of Connecticut, in order to erect a large monument at Warwick south-west corner, in the line between this colony and that of Connecticut, who proceeded on said affair, and made the following report, viz. :

We, the subscribers, represent to this Honorable Assembly, that as we, being appointed a committee by the government of Rhode Island, to meet a committee also appointed by the colony of Connecticut, to erect a large monument or heap of stones, at Warwick south-west corner, in the place where the corner formerly was

made at the time of settling the line betwixt the two governments ; and accordingly, we met at said place, the 24th day of November last, where we met James Wadsworth and Timothy Pearce, Esq., with Col. Avery, their surveyor, and sundry others in company, where we spent the afternoon debating matters, and waiting for the Hon'ble Roger Wolcott, Esq., he having their act of Assembly that empowered them.

Whereupon, the next day, the 25th, we met at said corner, the Hon'ble Roger Wolcott, Esq., James Wadsworth and Timothy Pearce, Esqs., a committee appointed by the government of Connecticut, and equally empowered with us, to make said monument or heap of stones, at said corner ; and after a conference and some arguments used, they unanimously agreed to join with us, to revise the afore-said corner ; whereupon, we, with such assistance as was present, belonging to each government, raised a stone in said corner, that was provided and brought in place, of ten feet and a half long, and two feet and three inches wide, and considerable thickness, having the letter C on the west side, and R on the east, and the date of the year, and several other letters ; being now a corner of West Greenwich and Coventry ; and round the same, we made a considerable heap of stones."

DANIEL ABBOTT,

ISHMAEL SPINK.

JOHN FRY,

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted ; and that the same be recorded by the secretary.

Voted and resolved, that the several accounts of the committee that revised the boundaries at Warwick south-west corner be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, viz :

To Col. Daniel Abbott, £8 10s. ; to Mr. John Frye, £7 10s. 9d., and to Capt. Ishmael Spink, £6, for their service in said affair.

Whereas, the judge of admiralty, for this colony, being gone home for Great Britain, and his deputy appointed here, declining to serve any longer ;—

It is therefore voted, that Mr. John Gidley, of Newport, in the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby appointed judge of admiralty for this colony, until a person be properly appointed from home, to that office ; and that His Honor, the Governor, give him his oath to said office.

Upon a motion made by Capt. William Hopkins, who was the recruiting officer in this colony, for Col. William Gooch's regiment (as well as for the two old corps of marines), for payment, for the raising recruits for said regiment ;—

It is voted and resolved, that no more money be advanced to him by this government on that account.

Whereas, Isaac Anthony, of Newport, in the county of Newport, goldsmith, presented to the General Assembly, at their session, held by adjournment, at East Greenwich, on the fourth Monday in November last past, an account for the entertainment of several Spanish officers (who were brought into Newport, as prisoners), from the 20th day of September, to the 22d day of November, A. D. 1742, amounting to the sum of £99, and craved an allowance thereof; whereupon, the General Assembly thought proper to make him an allowance of the sum of £54, in satisfaction thereof, which he apprehended was not a sufficient compensatian for the costs and charges he had been at in said affair; and therefore made application to this present General Assembly, for further relief in the premises;—

It is thereupon voted and ordered, that the sum of £18 more be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said Isaac Anthony, for the entertainment of the said Spanish officers, during the time aforesaid.

Voted, that Harrison Weaver, Caleb Beagle, William Wall and Samuel Gorton, all of East Greenwich, in the county of Providence, be admitted freemen of this colony.

Voted, that John Kenion, son of James, deceased, and Stephen Rosse, both of Charlestown, in the county of Kings county, be admitted freemen of this colony.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 3d day of May, 1743.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,	Mr. Daniel Howland,
Mr. William Ellery,	Mr. Philip Arnold,
Mr. Ezekiel Warner,	Mr. James Arnold,
Mr. Richard Fenner,	Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,
Mr. John Dexter,	Mr. Rouse Helme.

Mr. John Potter, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon clerk.

The following are admitted freemen of the colony :

Of Newport, Isaac Stelle, Henry Stacy, David Seaver, Huxford Merchant, William Strengthfield, Peleg Thurston, Incom Sanford, Joseph Wanton, Jr., John Whiting, John Petel, Joshua Coggeshall, son of Thomas ; Benjamin Borden, Daniel Bate-  
man, Robert Carter, Joseph Freeborn, James Holmes, Samuel Lyndon, Jr., Robert Stevens, William Paul, John Brown, Jr., Isaac Bowen, John Morris, William Tate, Evan Malbone, Simon Newton, Nathaniel Langley, Henry Bliss, Zabdiel Potter, Nicholas Brown, John Pitman, Stephen Ayrault, Jonathan Barden, Matthew Robinson, George Lawton, son of Robert ; Thos. Gavitt and Edward Wanton.

Of Providence, Josiah Jenckes, Charles Olney, Robert Knight, Jr., Philip Roberts, Josiah Potter, Othniel Carpenter, Resolved Waterman and William Brown.

Of Portsmouth, William Hall, Jr., Jonathan Pearce, John Corey, son of Thomas ; William Butts, Samuel Phettiplace and Jonathan Phettiplace.

Of Warwick, Jonathan Greene, Jeremiah Randall,, Benjamin Greene, son of John ; and Benjamin Weaver.

Of Westerly, Henry Willis, Jonathan Lewis, Samuel Gavitt, John Crandell, son of Peter ; Benjamin Chase, Matthew Greene, Samuel Brown and Benjamin Hall.

Of North Kingstown, John Baker, Robert Nichols, John Allen, Jr., John Bent, Thomas Northup, Jr., Abiel Tripp, James Lewis, Adam Gould, Abraham Willcox, Jabez Chadsey,

Ephraim Gardner, James Gardner, Stukely Congdon, Anthony Corey, Israel Phillips, Robert Sweet, Henry Wall, Daniel Fourtane, Alexander Havens and Henry Olden.

Of South Kingstown, Nathan Gardner.

Of East Greenwich, Benjamin Sweet, Jr. and Nicholas Goddard.

Of Jamestown, William Tew, John Carr and Jonathan Greene.

Of Smithfield, Nathaniel Man, Seth Cooke, Daniel Sayles and John Harris.

Of Scituate, Edward Potter, Thomas Remington, Dean Kimball, Samuel Rogers, John Lovel, David Brown, Hugh Pray Jeremiah Hopkins, Job Shippey, Jonathan Dollaff, Daniel Bennett and Josiah Bennett.

Of Gloucester, Elisha Cooke, Morris Tucker, Silas Williams, Daniel Smith and Timothy Willmarth.

Of Charlestown, Benjamin Potter.

Of West Greenwich, Arthur Aylesworth, son of John; and Daniel Case.

Of Coventry, James Green, son of John; Azariah Eddy, Josias Spink, Robert Havens, Benjamin Gardner, Joseph Potter, John Rice, Richard Stafford, Daniel Colvin, John Holmes, Obadiah Johnson and Samuel Bennett.

Of Exeter, James Rogers, Jr., and Philip Greene.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday in May, 1743.*

The Hon. Richard Ward, Governor.

The Hon. William Greene, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.



## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Capt. George Wanton,  
Mr. Daniel Gould,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Col. John Cranston,  
Capt. Jonathan Nichols,  
Capt. Ezbon Sanford.

*Providence.*

Mr. John Potter,  
Col. Jabez Bowen,  
Capt. Jonathan Randall,  
Capt. Christopher Harris.

*Portsmouth.*

Capt. John Lawton,  
Capt. Jeremiah Lawton,  
Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. William Anthony, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Major Joseph Stafford,  
Major John Rhodes,  
Capt. William Rice,  
Mr. Barlow Greene.

*Westerly.*

Capt. John Maxson,  
Mr. William Hern.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Robert Hull,  
Mr. Henry Gardner.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. George Tibbetts, Jr.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
Mr. Benjamin Peckham, Jr.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. John Frye,  
Mr. Joseph Nichols.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Abel Franklin,  
Mr. Samuel Slocum.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Staere,  
Mr. David Comstock.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. Joseph Knight.

*Glocester.*

Mr. John Walton,  
Capt. Isaiah Inman.

*Charlestown.*

Major Christopher Champlin,  
Capt. Nathaniel Lewis.

*West Greenwich.*

Capt. Ishmael Spink,  
Mr. Samuel Hopkins.

*Coventry.*

Capt. Abel Potter,  
Mr. John Johnson.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Weight,  
Mr. John Reynolds, Jr.

Mr. John Potter, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Daniel Howland,

Mr. William Ellery,

Mr. Philip Arnold,

Mr. Ezekiel Warner,

Mr. James Arnold,

Mr. Richard Fenner,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. John Dexter,

Mr. Rouse Helme.

SECRETARY.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. James Martin.

Mr. John Gardner.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

Voted, that William Burton, Esq., be chosen an assistant, in the room of Ezekiel Warner, Esq., who refused.

Voted, that Philip Greene, Esq., be chosen an assistant in the room of Philip Arnold, Esq., who refused.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. William Anthony, Jr., and William Rice, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to receive of Richard Ward, Esq., the late Governor, the colony seal, giving him a receipt for the same ; and to deliver said seal to His Honor, the present Governor, taking his receipt for the same.

Whereas, Col. John Cranston (as captain of Fort George), did present to this General Assembly an account for his service the last year, and for the service and allowance of board wages to the gunner and two other men at said fort, to the 5th day of May instant, amounting to the sum of £260 10s., craving an allowance thereof ;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said sum of \$260 10s., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said John Cranston, for him to pay the said gunner and two other men their several parts thereof.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 13th day of June, 1743.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for dividing the town of Newport, in the county of Newport, into two towns.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the said town of Newport be divided into two towns; and the division to begin at the head of the creek, that separates the two farms of the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., and Godfrey Malbone, of said Newport, merchant; and so to extend upon a direct line between the two houses of Elisha Card, and that in the possession of Samuel Pemberton, Esq.; and from thence on a straight line to the place where the creek on Easton's Beach runs into the sea; and all to the southward and westward of the said line, to belong to the town of Newport; and all to the northward and eastward of said line, to be incorporated into a town by the name of Middletown.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that John Dexter, Esq., Messrs. Benjamin Peckham, Jr., and Sam'l Easton, surveyor, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to run the aforesaid line, and make report to the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, the inhabitants of New Shoreham, in the county of Newport, did, by petition to this Assembly, set forth, that the cost in erecting their pier in said New Shoreham, will be far greater than they did expect or imagine, and what they are by no means able to go through with, unless this General As-

sembly will grant them a further supply ; and therefore craved relief for that purpose ;—

Which being duly considered, be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the sum of £400, be allowed and paid to Mr. Robert Hull, out of the general treasury, towards defraying the charge of building said pier, as soon as a report shall be made that the work is completed, by a committee to be appointed hereafter, by the General Assembly, for that purpose.

Whereas, there is a balance of £173 16s. 1*d.*, due to this colony, from the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, upon a settlement of the accounts of charges of the court of commissioners for settling the controversy between said governments, relating to the boundary line, and other charges respecting said affair ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to address His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of said Province, requesting the payment of said sum.

Voted and resolved, that Samuel Wickham, Gideon Wanton, Edward Scott and Thomas Ward, Esqs., and the secretary, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to revise the laws of this colony, as well those in print already, as those that are not, that the whole thereof may be new printed, as soon as conveniently may be.

Voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. John Cranston and Ezbon Sanford, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to receive of the late Governor, Rich. Ward, Esq., the charter of this colony, the copper plates, books, papers, and what else belongs to the government, and deliver the same to the Hon. William Greene, Esq., the present Governor, giving and taking receipts for that purpose.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Peter Bours, Esq., amounting to \$41 2s. 5*d.*, for shipping off the Spanish officers, being for their passages and necessaries put on board for them, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of James Davis, keeper of His Majesty's jail in Newport, in the county of Newport, amounting to £23 7s. 1d., for the board of the Spanish captain, and his washing, from the 14th day of September, to the 31st day of December last past, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of John Easton, amounting to £21 8s. 2d., being for clothes bought for the Spanish captain, when put on board, for his return home; and for services done at sundry times, in summoning evidences respecting Stephen Talman's attendance upon the General Assembly, &c., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that James Reynolds, of West Greenwich, in the county of Providence, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, the sum of £116 8s., for his extraordinary service and care in maintaining the true division line between this colony, and the colony of Connecticut.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the fourth Tuesday in August, 1743.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the north-east part of the town of Newport, into a township, and the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Middletown.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session, held by adjournment at Newport, within and for said colony, on the second Monday in June, last past, did, among other things, en-

act, that the town of Newport should be divided into two towns ; and for that purpose, appointed a committee to run the dividing line, and make report thereon to this present session of the Assembly, who have accordingly reported, that they have done the same, in the following manner :

Beginning at the head of the creek, that separates the two farms of the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., and Godfrey Malbone, of said Newport, merchant ; and on a south course, nineteen degrees and an half east, run a direct line, extending to the south-east corner of a lot of land, belonging to Job Almy, of said Newport, merchant ; the said corner being between the houses of Elisha Card, and that in the possession of Samuel Pemberton ; and from said corner, a straight line south, twenty-seven degrees east, crossing the bridge that lieth over the creek, on Easton's Beach ; and so into the sea on that course, it being the place where the said creek usually runs into the sea.

And the said report being accepted ;—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that all the lands to the southward and westward of the said line, as before described, belong to the town of Newport ; and that all the lands to the northward and eastward of said line, be distinguished and known by the name of Middletown ; and that the inhabitants of said Middletown, from time to time shall have and enjoy the like benefits, liberties, privileges and immunities with other towns in this colony, according to charter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the justices of the peace, living within the aforesaid town of Middletown, shall remain and continue in their aforesaid offices until the next general election ; and that the first of said justices of the peace grant forth his warrant to call the inhabitants of said Middletown together on Tuesday next, being the 30th day of August instant, to elect and appoint such town officers as they shall have occasion for, and the law directs ; and to appoint the times and places of their town meetings ; and to choose and elect two deputies, to represent them at the next General Assembly, and so on, as by the charter is directed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

said town of Middletown shall send one grand and three petit jurors to the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery ; and three grand and three petit jurors to every inferior court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace, held within the county of Newport ; and that the town of Newport shall hereafter send to each of the aforesaid courts, so many jurors less of what they are now compelled by law, as is ordered to be sent by the aforesaid town of Middletown.

Whereas, Samuel Wickham, Gideon Wanton, Edward Scott and Thomas Ward, Esqs., and the secretary, were appointed at the last session of this Assembly, a committee to revise the laws of this colony, as well those in print, as those that are not, that the whole might be printed as soon as may be ;—

It is now voted and resolved, that Mr. John Callender, Jr., be, and he is hereby added to the aforesaid committee, for that purpose ; and that any three of them are hereby empowered to act therein ; and that said committee put those laws into print, which they have already revised, transcribed and presented to this Assembly ; putting the charter in print in the first place.

And that said committee procure paper and other necessities, for printing off five hundred copies, in the best manner, and draw money out of the general treasury to defray the charges thereof ; and when they are finished, each of the members of this present General Assembly shall be furnished with a book gratis.

Whereas, there was a committee appointed by the General Assembly of this colony, at their present session, to inspect into the affair of His Majesty's patent, under the privy seal, produced by Leonard Lockman, Esq., appointing him clerk of the naval or navy office, in said colony (a copy whereof was laid before said General Assembly), and make report thereon, and said committee accordingly reported in the following manner, viz. :

That with humble submission, it is conceived, that His Majesty was mistaken in said grant; for that, by several acts of Parliament, said office is in the appointment of the Governor of said colony, who had (according to the privilege used of old) appointed a naval officer in said colony, and is by law answerable for the neglects and misdemeanors of said officer, agreeably to the statutes in this case provided.

Which report is voted to be accepted.  
God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the last Tuesday in September, 1743.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Upon the petition of Elizabeth Munday, of Newport, in the county of Newport, widow, craving an allowance of the account of her late husband, Richard Munday, deceased, against the colony house; and also for his advice and attendance respecting the building thereof, and for drawing a plan of the same;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., and Capt. Jeremiah Lawton, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to consider what shall be allowed to the petitioner, for her late husband's advice and attendance, &c., about the colony house, and drawing a plan thereof, and make report thereon.

God save the King.



*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday of October, 1743.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Comfort Taylor, of Little Compton, in the county of Bristol, and Province of the Massachusetts Bay, widow, did, by petition, set forth to this Assembly, that at a court of equity, held at Providence, within and for said colony, on the second Tuesday of October, instant, the petitioner obtained a judgment against a negro man, named Cuff, belonging to Thomas Borden, of Portsmouth, in the county of Newport, for £200, and costs of suit, for a grievous trespass, committed by said Cuff, against her; and that, as the execution will go against his person to be imprisoned, according to the common form of executions, it is not clear that the sheriff can dispose of him, which she apprehends he ought to have power to do, because said negro is not free, but a private property; and therefore prayed that the said sheriff might be empowered to sell him, as other personal estate, taken by execution, to satisfy debts; and considering the great abuse she has suffered, and the charge that will come out of said negro, for prison fees, she desired that the fine of £20 against said negro Cuff might be remitted, otherwise she should get nothing for all the hardships she has endured;—

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the said county of Newport, when he shall receive the execution against the said negro Cuff, be, and he is hereby fully empowered to sell said negro Cuff as other personal estate; and after the fine of £20 be paid into the general treas-

ury, and all other charges deducted out of the price of said negro, the remainder to be appropriated in said satisfying said execution.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write a letter in answer to the agent's letter relating to the naval officer, and present the same to this Assembly as soon as conveniently may be, in order to be sent home.

God save the King.

[The following laws of a public nature, passed during the year 1743, are printed at length, in the Digest of 1747.]

An Act to prevent all persons from voting in any town meeting in this colony, saving in the town where such person dwells.

An Act directing the manner of choosing grand jurors throughout this colony.

An Act directing the attendance of the petit jurors and witnesses at the courts in this colony.

An Act to prevent the fish being stopped in their course up Pawcatuck river.

An Act for the preventing the counterfeiting of bills of public credit emitted by any of the governments of New England, and to prevent defacing the same.\*

An Act to prevent persons convicted of counterfeiting bills of public credit, or any other forgery, from proxing or voting in this colony, or from being chosen to any office.

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\* So much had the colonies suffered by the counterfeiting of their bills of credit, that the most severe penalties were necessarily inflicted, to put a check to it. In the act in question, it was provided that "persons so offending therein, shall be pilloried, and have both his, her or their ears cropped, and be branded with the letter R, on each cheek, and be imprisoned at the discretion of the judges for the time being, before whom all such offenders shall be tried, and shall pay double damages to all persons defrauded or cheated, with all costs of prosecution; and double interest during the time of possessing said bill or bills." Furthermore, "that all deeds or other instruments of lands or personal estate, made by persons convicted of counterfeiting, shall be void."—J. R. B.

An Act for the greater ease of the inhabitants in discharging their debts due to the colony.

An Act to prevent the unnecessary quashing of justices' orders in case of bastardy.

An Act for the more effectual calling in and exchanging the public bills of credit of this colony, emitted in 1740.

An Act for the more effectual punishment of negroes, that shall attempt to commit a rape on any white woman.

An Act for restoring Silas Greenman, of Westerly, to his former rights and privileges, as a freeman of this colony.

An Act for stating the prices of ferriage at the several ferries in this colony.

An Act stating the fees of the collector of His Majesty's customs, and the naval officer in this colony.

An Act establishing the fees of the court of vice admiralty. this colony.

An Act for settling and ascertaing damages upon protested bills of exchange.

*Letter from Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, January 29, 1744-5.

Sir:—Though I doubt not but that the interest of the common cause of New England, will sufficiently animate your government to exert themselves vigorously in the intended expedition against Louisburg, yet I would beg leave to add, that the exposed situation of your colony by sea, and the resentment of the enemy, against it, on account of the activeness of your privateers, make it particularly probable that you may have a sudden visit from the French, this summer, if Cape Briton is not reduced.

The gentlemen who deliver this, will apprise Your Honor how essential it is, towards our proceeding in this important affair, that we should have a naval force before Louisburg, by the beginning or the middle of March, at furthest, to cut off the enemy's provision vessels, and intercept Mr. Duvivier, who is expected about that time with recruits for the garrison; which latter event must be so killing a blow to the people of the town and garrison, that it would not fail of being decisive; and they will also let you know what this government has done, and what applications I have made towards providing such a naval force; I hope, therefore, you will not fail to exert yourself in this respect. They will further inform you how necessary it is that we should have a proper train of artillery, which should be four pieces, of eighteen pound shot, to twenty-four pound; of which sort, we have not sufficient in our castle; and I therefore hope you will contribute your quota, also in this respect.

I doubt not but our united force, vigorously exerted upon this occasion, in conjunction with His Majesty's other neighboring colonies, will meet with success, which I hope will be the event of this expedition, and am, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

Hon'ble Governor Greene.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the 14th day of February, 1743-44.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for emitting the sum of £40,000 in bills of public credit, of the new tenor, to be let upon loan.

*Protest.*

We, the subscribers, dissent from the foregoing vote, and protest against it, for the following reasons :

1st. Because the interest to be paid by those who take up the bills emitted by this act, is so low, and the principal to be paid in again at such distant periods, that it will necessarily depreciate their value, as well as frustrate one of the principal ends of emitting, and letting them out upon loan, which is to defray the charges of the government.

2d. Because we think that making so large a bank at this time, will be of most pernicious consequence to the trade of this colony, by so much depreciating our whole paper currency, that it may bring on a discount between our bills and those of the neighboring governments, (being what they once aimed at), which when once begun, no one can tell where it will stop, and must introduce the utmost difficulties and confusion in our trade with the inhabitants of those governments, upon which our foreign trade so much depends.

3d. Because this emission will make so large an addition to that load of bank mortgages already upon the lands of this colony, that posterity will never be able to discharge them, but must unavoidably end in the utter ruin of a vast number of families.

4th. Because we look upon it to be highly unjust to make an act that will naturally and necessarily depreciate the bills already extant, whereby all creditors

will be defrauded of a great part of their just dues; widows and orphans, whose interest consists of money, will be greatly injured and oppressed, all industry discouraged, and idleness, extravagance and extortion highly encouraged to the manifest hurt and dishonor of the colony.

5th. Because we apprehend it will greatly endanger our most valuable charter privileges, and be looked upon as a presumptuous and undutiful piece of conduct, to add one large emission to another, and of such a pernicious tendency, after so many instructions, admonitions, and commands to the contrary, which have been sent to this colony, both from the then lords justices, and from the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, as well as the votes of the Honorable House of Commons, showing their disapprobation of such a paper currency; all which have been now read in this house.

6th. Because, as we apprehend, that this fatal act will be attended with all the pernicious consequences before mentioned, we would have the whole colony as well as posterity, know that we have not been instrumental in their ruin and misery, but have endeavored, (as much as in us lay,) to preserve and transmit down to posterity the privileges and properties which their ancestors obtained and earned with so much hazard, labor and expense.

SAMUEL WICKHAM,  
JOHN TILLINGHAST,

JOSEPH JACOB,  
BENJAMIN HALL.

[A protest was also presented by Peter Bours, another member of the Assembly, against the passage of the act referred to. It is omitted here, on account of its length.]

An Act repealing an act made in the fifteenth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for appointing and erecting a court of equity, to hear and determine all appeals in personal actions, from the judgments of the superior court," and for granting reviews in personal actions.

Whereas, it is found, by experience, that the trials of causes by the said court of equity is inconvenient, and a great grievance to the inhabitants of this colony;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that the said act, and every clause thereof, be, and it is hereby repealed, and made null and void; and that the said court be, and it hereby is dissolved and abolished.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all the records of said court shall be lodged and remain in the secretary's office, and that they be, and remain as valid; and all copies extracted therefrom, and attested by the secretary,

shall be as authentic, to all intents and purposes in the law, as if the said court of equity were still in being.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all executions upon any judgments obtained in said court, and not satisfied, shall be hereafter granted forth by the secretary, and be returnable into his office, on such days, as would have been the first days of said court of equity's sitting, had not the same been hereby abolished.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all writs of scire facias, upon any judgment obtained in the said court of equity, shall be brought before the judges of the superior court of judicature, who are hereby authorized and empowered to take cognizance of the same, in the same manner they might have done, if the said judgments had been obtained in the said superior court.

And, to the end that there may be no failure of justice, and that no person or persons be foreclosed by any judgment, where they might, upon a new trial, be provided with new and further evidence for their defence ;—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the person or persons that shall be aggrieved at any judgment of the superior court, shall, and may have liberty to bring a writ of review, and thereupon have another hearing of said cause, in the said superior court.

Provided, the said party hath obtained a judgment in the said cause, either at the inferior or superior court, and no other person whatsoever ; and the party bringing such writ of review, shall bring an attested copy of the whole case, and each party shall have the benefit of any new and further pleas and evidence ; and the party who shall recover judgment in such action of review, shall recover all lawful costs by him at any time before expended in said suit.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when and so often as it shall happen, that both parties shall bring actions of review to the superior court in the same cause, that then, and in such case, the writs in both actions, and all the evidence of both parties, shall be committed together by

the court to the same jury, in order to confirm, reverse or alter the former judgment of the superior court, according to law and justice; and the party who shall recover judgment, shall recover the whole costs of both suits.

Provided, that no action of review shall be brought after the expiration of one year from the time of rendering the judgment to be reviewed, and that the said writ or summons of review, shall be taken out and served thirty days before the sitting of said court to which such action of review shall be brought; and the reasons of such review shall be therein contained, saving to any infant, feme covert, or person non compos mentis, or beyond sea, one year after such impediment be removed, to bring their writ of review, as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that execution shall not be stayed or suspended, by reason of any such action of review; and that any judgment given in any action of review, shall no ways hinder the party who shall be aggrieved thereat, to appeal to His Majesty in council, in all cases where the law of this colony permits and allows the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sheriffs, or their deputies, shall take good and sufficient bail in all writs of review that shall be directed to them, to answer the judgments that shall be thereon given; and where the body of the defendant cannot be found, nor sufficient estate be found to attach, to answer the said actions of review, that then, and in such case, it shall, and may be lawful for the sheriff, or his deputy, to attach the money, goods or land by him received, seized or attached by virtue of the execution taken out in pursuance of the former judgment obtained, if the same be remaining in his hands, or unsold at the time of his receiving the said writ of review.

Provided, nevertheless, and it is the true intent and meaning of this act, that the same, and every part thereof, shall take place and be in force the first Wednesday in May next ensuing the date hereof, and not before; any thing herein contained, or any law, custom or usage to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Whereas, Peter Bourse, Samuel Wickham and Edward Scott, Esqs., were appointed a committee to examine into the conduct of the court of vice admiralty, relating to the condemnation of the sloop Gertrude, Samuel Baal, commander, did report, that they had procured a copy of the case, and examined Samuel Pemberton, Esq., late deputy judge of said court, who informed them, that he had no other reasons to give, why he condemned said sloop, than those he had assigned in the body of his decree.

Which report is voted to be accepted.

Voted and resolved, that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Peter Bours and Samuel Wickham, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a letter for His Honor, the Governor, to sign, and send the same to their excellencies, the lords justices, respecting the condemnation of the sloop Gertrude, and to send home a copy of the decree of the court of vice admiralty concerning said condemnation; and that said committee send, by the first good opportunity, £150 to the agent of this colony; and they are hereby empowered to draw money out of the general treasury to sufficient to purchase said sum, in bills of exchange, gold or silver, for the purpose aforesaid.

*Governor Greene's Letter to the Duke of Newcastle.*

Newport, Rhode Island, March 15, 1743. 1743.

My Lord:—In obedience to the directions of their excellencies, the late lords justices, to me, to procure and send the proceedings of the court of admiralty, here, upon the trial of a barque, of Curraco, called La Gertruyda, Capt. Samuel Baal, commander, taken near Rio de la Hache, by three English privateers, commanded by Robert Flowers, John Rows and William Wilkinson, and condemned in the court of admiralty, in this colony, and divided among the captors, (which Mr. Hop, minister from the States General of the United Provinces, complains of, as contrary to the treaties subsisting between His Majesty and the States), together with a full account of the reasons which induced the said court to proceed to the condemnation of her. I have procured the enclosed authentic copy of the trial of the said barque, from the records of the admiralty court; and a committee of the General Assembly of this colony has been appointed to inquire of the late deputy judge (who is now a prisoner for debt), what reasons he had to induce him to proceed to the condemnation of said barque, who replied, that he had no other reasons to render but those he had assigned in the body of his decree. So that I am not able to give your grace



any further account, but humbly hope, that, as this court, which has the sole cognizance of prizes, is wholly independent of any authority in this colony, that the Governor and Company will never be thought liable to censure on account of any judgment in that court, that may be thought owing to the mistakes or passions of any ignorant or indigent person; that without their consent or knowledge, may be deputed to judge and determine singly in matters of such high and public concernment.

I am, with great respect, my lord,

Your Grace's most humble and most obedient servant,

To His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle.

W. GREENE.

Voted, that Thomas Pearce, son of John; Abel Hall, Nicholas Goddard, John Manchester, Jr., and Benjamin Corey, all of East Greenwich, in the county of Providence, be admitted freemen of this colony.

God save the King.

*Letter from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Greene.*

Whitehall, March 31st, 1744.

Sir:—The French king having declared war against His Majesty, (as you will see by the enclosed copy of his declaration, for that purpose, which is full of the grossest and most indecent misrepresentations, and reflections upon His Majesty's conduct,) I am to acquaint you, by His Majesty's command, that on Thursday last, the 29th instant, a great council was held at St. James's, where His Majesty approved, and has since signed, a declaration of war against the French king, and ordered that the same should be published on this day, by the heralds at arms, in the usual places, and with the accustomed formalities on the like occasions; which has been done, accordingly.

I send you enclosed, a printed copy of the said declaration, and am commanded to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure, that you cause it to be proclaimed in the colony under your government, that His Majesty's subjects having this notice, may take care to prevent any mischief, which otherwise they might suffer from the enemy, and do their duty in their several stations, to distress and annoy the subjects of the French king.

And His Majesty would have you be very rigorous and severe, in preventing any ammunition, or stores of any kind, from being carried to them; and you are to use all proper methods, that may be most effectual for that purpose.

I send you enclosed, His Majesty's proclamation for the distribution of prizes taken by His Majesty's ships of war, or privateers, which, you will take care, may be published in the colony under your government; and you will do every thing in your power, to encourage His Majesty's subjects to fit out ships to act as privateers against the enemy; and you will, upon the receipt of this letter, take all opportunities, as far as depends upon you, to distress and annoy the French in their settlements, trade and commerce.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

NEWCASTLE.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 1st day of May, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Philip Greene,

Mr. William Ellery,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. William Burton,

Mr. Rouse Helme.

Mr. Stephen Hopkins, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following are admitted freemen of the colony :

Of Newport, Miller Frost, Elisha Johnson, Timothy Newell, Jonathan Nichols, vintner ; James Tanner, Jonathan Bardin, Lawrence Payne, Matthew Robinson, Samuel Carr, son of Samuel ; Kendall Nichols, Jr., William Benson, Nathan Carpenter, John Coggeshall, son of Abraham ; John Rouse, James Gerald, William Gibbs, Job Almy, Ephraim Harris, Solomon Senter, Charles Coombs, Daniel Smith, William Torrey, John Brown, son of Samuel ; Peleg Clarke, Daniel Coggeshall, John Amory, Joseph Bull, Ebenezer Baldwin, John Belitho, Southcote Langworthy, Jonathan Lawton, son of Jeremiah ; Benjamin Cranston and John Tanner.

Of Providence, Seth Dean, Jonathan Bucklin, Benjamin Gorham, Jonathan Hammond, John Jenckes, John Wilkinson, Jeremiah Knight, Jeremiah Westcot, Moses Burlingame, Jr.,

Christopher Waterman, James Irwin, Benjamin Brown, John Aplin, David Harris and Samuel Chace.

Of Portsmouth, John Dexter, Jr., Jacob Mott, Jr., Benjamin Freeborn, David Earle, Thomas Manchester, Thomas Brownell, Samuel Clarke, Silas Talman, Benjamin Fish, Jonathan Allen, Caleb Allen, George Lawton, Robert Lawton, Jr., Thomas Slocum and Joseph Martin, Jr.

Of Warwick, Benjamin Clarke, Jeremiah Colegrove, Benjamin Ellis, Benjamin Arnold, William Battey, Anthony Holdon, Daniel Budlong, Silas Baker, James Cook, Matthew Prince and Thomas Tibbetts.

Of Westerly, William Crumb, Jr., Thomas Pendleton, Nathaniel Cotterel, John West, William Davis, Jr., John Champ-  
lin, Caleb Maxson, Jonathan Palmitter, Jr., Thomas Wells, Jr., Thomas Rathbone, Andrew Champlin, Rice Nicholas, Stephen Saunders, Jr., Elisha Stillman and Gideon Worden.

Of New Shoreham, Abel Franklin, Jr., Nathaniel Mott and Nathaniel Dodge.

Of North Kingstown, Thomas Turgee, Nathaniel Berry, Benjamin Greene, Thomas Cooper, William Dyre, Samuel Warner, James Boone, Charles Brown, Jr., Nicholas Watson, James Douglas and John Vaughan, Jr.

Of South Kingstown, William Potter, son of John; Abiel Shearman, Joshua Bell, Jonathan Shearman, Joseph Hull, William Briggs, John Potter, son of Iehabod; David Stanton and Jeremiah Browning.

Of East Greenwich, Benjamin Sweet, Jr., William Spenser, son of Peleg; John Spenser, Jr., John Gardner, schoolmaster; David Vaughan and Daniel Vaughan, sons of Robert.

Of Jamestown, Benedict Remington and William Martin.

Of Smithfield, Maturin Bellou, Jr., Stephen Inman, Silvanus Aldrich, John Sayles, Jr., Anthony Comstock, Samuel Cook, Roger Derby, Samuel Aldrich, son of Samuel; Ezekiel Angel, Daniel Smith, son of Elisha; Benj. Wilkinson, Jos. Carpenter, John Scott, Jr., Resolved Waterman, Jr., Abraham Winsor, John Windsor, John Tredwin, Baulston Brayton, John Knox, Samuel

Buxton, Benjamin Buxton, Benjamin Thompson, Thomas Man, Oliver Man, Thomas Woodward.

Of Scituate, John Hulet, Ezekiel Hopkins, Jr., John Pray, John Weight, Noah Fisk, Uriah Franklin, Jonathan Hopkins, Samuel Corpe, Jr., Stephen Williams, William Salsbury, John Herenden, Jr., Oliver Westcot, John Sprague, Nathaniel Kimbell, Joshua Eddy, Gideon Smith, David Aylsworth, Benjamin Colvin and Ebenezer King.

Of Gloucester, Eliphalet Weight, William Herenden, John Grover, Thomas Knolton, John Davis, Elias Smith, Noah Arnold, Obadiah Inman, John Whipple, Ebenezer Darling, James Cowen, George Bumpus, Eliphalet Eddy, Ebenezer Howard, Benjamin Phetteplace, Noah Aldrich, Jonathan Cutter, Stephen Smith, Jr., and Nathaniel Man.

Of Charlestown, John Ladd, Ichabod Closson, William Welch, David Nichols, William Potter, Jr., Jonathan James, John Willbore, Joseph Woodmansie, Jr., Lott Tripp, David Moore, Stephen Willcox, Jr., William Congdon, Samuel Stanton, Joseph Dodge and David Babcock.

Of West Greenwich, Isaac Johnson, Arthur Aylesworth, son of John ; Daniel Case, Joseph Dolliver, John Reynolds, son of Samuel ; John Young, Amos Jones, James Willson, Henry Mattason, son of Henry ; John Greene, Jr., Robert Willson, Josiah Sweet, Jeremiah Ellis, Jr., Joseph Spenser, Ezekiel Whitford, John Case, Jr., Chad Aylesworth, Thomas Rogers, Robert Carpenter, Robert Briggs, Benjamin Rogers, Thomas Thurston, Samuel Niles, Amos Mattason and Timothy Carpenter.

Of Coventry, Thomas Brayton, William Burlingame, Stephen Colvin, Anthony Corey, Job Potter, Uriah Stafford, James Greene, Jr., Stephen Cappel, Stephen Nichols, Roger Burlingame, Thomas Stafford, Jr., Thomas Stafford, son of William ; Adam Caston and Samuel Perkins.

Of Exeter, Robert Mowrey, Robert Reynolds, Moses Barber, Jr., Nicholas Barber, John Rathbone, Jr., John Champlin, Jedediah Irish, Samuel Gardner, Joseph Rogers, John Reynolds, son of John ; James Eldred and George Weight.

Of Middletown, Benjamin Smith, Isaac Manchester, Samuel Rogers, Jr., Samuel Allen, James Peckham, Jonathan Peckham, Joseph Nichols, Benjamin Nichols, Elisha Weaver, Thomas Weaver, son of Thomas Weaver, Jr., and Joseph Rider.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 2d day of May, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Samuel Wickham,  
Mr. Peter Coggeshall,  
Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Col. John Cranston,  
Mr. Joseph Jacob,  
Major Benjamin Hall.

*Providence.*

Col. Jabez Bowen,  
Mr. John Burton, Jr.,  
Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
Capt. Joseph Borden.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Stephen Brownell,  
Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.,  
Mr. Benjamin Tucker,  
Mr. Joseph Brownell, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Major Joseph Stafford,  
Major John Rhodes,  
Mr. John Holdon, Jr.,  
Mr. John Warner.

*Westerly.*

Capt. John Maxson,  
Mr. William Babcock.

*New Shoreham.*

Capt. Edward Sands,  
Mr. Thomas Dickens.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. Daniel Gould.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
Mr. James Perry.

## DEPUTIES.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Frye,  
Mr. Joseph Nichols.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Samuel Clarke,  
Mr. Daniel Weeden.

*Smithfield.*

Major William Smith,  
Mr. Thomas Steere.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. Jeremiah Angell.

*Glocester.*

Capt. John Smith,  
Mr. Richard Steere.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. Stephen Hoxie,  
Col. Christopher Chmplain.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Slocum,  
Mr. Benjamin Spink.

*Coventry.*

Capt. Abel Potter,  
Mr. John Johnson.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Weight,  
Capt. John Reynolds.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Daniel Gould,  
Mr. John Taylor.

Mr. Stephen Hopkins, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon,  
clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Hassard,  
Mr. William Ellery,  
Mr. William Burton,  
Mr. Richard Fenner,  
Mr. Daniel Howland,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. James Arnold,  
Mr. William Rice,  
Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Rouse Helme.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. James Martin.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. John Gardner.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

Whereas, there are sundry appeals from the superior court of judicature, to the court of equity, which remain yet undetermined, and said court of equity being now dissolved;—

It is therefore resolved, that William Ellery, Esq., Messrs. Samuel Wickham, Joseph Jacob and the attorney general be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to consider of a remedy in said affair, and prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same to the next session of this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that Col. John Cranston be, and he is hereby appointed to procure for the use of Fort George, five barrels of gunpowder, and so much shot as he shall think necessary, as soon as may be, and draw money out of the general treasury to pay for the same.

Whereas, Peter Bours, Samuel Wickham and Daniel Gould, Esqs., and the secretary, being the major part of the committee appointed by the General Assembly, at their session in February last past, to receive from Mr. James Helme (one of the committee appointed to exchange the bank emitted in A. D. 1740), what money has been exchanged by him, did report that they had received from the said James Helme the sum of £1,409 18s. 10d., in the new tenor of several denominations, and burnt the same, pursuant to the vote of said General Assembly;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the fourth Tuesday in May, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, it has been heretofore customary for the grand committee to give one another orders upon the general treasury, for paying themselves for signing of bills of credit, which is conceived to be very irregular ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that for the future, the grand committee do not draw any money out of the general treasury, for such a service as aforesaid, but by order of the General Assembly.

Upon the petition of sundry inhabitants of the town of Providence, in the county of Providence, praying that an artillery company might be incorporated in said town, and a charter granted them in such manner as has been heretofore done ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that this petition be granted ; provided, the company be raised in the county of Providence, aforesaid ; and called by the name of the Artillery Company, of the county of Providence ; and that no person be admitted into said company but by the consent of the patentees or petitioners ; and that a charter be granted to said company, under the colony seal, and signed by the secretary, in the same form as the charter granted to the Artillery Company in the town of Newport, in the county of Newport.

Voted and resolved, that William Ellery and Samuel Wickham, Esqs., and Mr. John Callender, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to draw a petition to His Majesty, for a number of cannon, and other warlike stores, for the use of this



colony, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, in behalf of the General Assembly, and present the same to the next session of this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to His Honor, the Governor of Connecticut, and move to him, that, upon any emergent occasion, the two colony sloops may join in their cruises.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £300 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the Hon. William Greene, Esq., Governor of this colony, for his last year's salary and extraordinary service.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £50 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Deputy Governor of said colony, for his last year's salary and extraordinary service.

Voted and resolved, that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Deputy Governor, Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Messrs. Stephen Brownell, Robert Hassard, Job Randall and Samuel Perry, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to determine what is ratable estate, and prepare a bill for the same, and present it to the next session of this Assembly.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 19th day of June, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for putting this colony in a proper posture of defence, in the present war.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the battery under Fort George, be enlarged, so as to mount two cannons more in a complete manner, at the south end thereof; and that ten men more be added to the former twenty soldiers for the defence of said fort; and that the gunner's pay be augmented to £10 per month, and the men's to £8 per month, old tenor; which men may be impressed by the field officers of the county of Newport, in case a sufficient number do not enlist in ten days; and that a lieutenant be appointed to said fort by the General Assembly, and to receive the pay of £20 per month, old tenor, he constantly residing at said fort, till the 10th day of October next ensuing, and finding himself.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that eighty barrels of good gunpowder (including what is already ordered to be purchased), and fifteen hundred pounds weight of musket balls be procured as soon as may be, at the expense of the colony, and for the use thereof, by the commissary; fifty barrels of said powder to be for the use of said Fort George, and to be delivered to the captain of said fort; twelve barrels thereof to be for the use of the colony sloop 'Tartar, and to be delivered to the captain of said sloop; three barrels thereof, for the defence of Block Island, and to be delivered to Capt. Edward Sands; and the remaining fifteen barrels, with the musket balls, to be divided to the three counties; that is, five barrels of gun powder and one-third part of the musket balls to each county, to be delivered to the colonel of the regiment, within the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissary, as he shall purchase any of the aforesaid warlike stores, shall draw money out of the general treasury to pay for the same, as he shall have occasion; and render an annual account of the expenses arising thereon, or sooner, if required thereto by the General Assembly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the rate ordered to be levied at the last session, be augmented

to the sum of £10,000, old tenor, to be collected as said act expresseth ; the whole to be done in nine months' time.

But for the present supply of the government with necessary stores, £2,500, new tenor, be impressed from the plates, dated 1743, and signed by the grand committee, and delivered to the general treasurer, immediately to be applied to the uses aforesaid, and no other ; and the aforesaid sum to be sunk by said rate, when collected.

An Act for fitting out the colony sloop Tartar, in company with the sloop kept by His Majesty's colony of Connecticut, for guarding the coast.

Whereas, it is necessary for the safety of trade on the coast of New England, and the preservation of shipping, to keep some vessels of force cruising, to protect His Majesty's subjects and their effects against foreign enemies now in time of open war ;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the colony sloop Tartar, be forthwith fitted out in a warlike manner, with guns, ammunition, and all other stores of war, and other necessary stores, as soon as possible, and be manned with ninety able bodied men (officers included), and proceed forthwith on a cruise, sailing as far eastward as Martha's Vineyard, and as far westward as Long Island extends, and to continue said cruise (without any intermission, only to procure necessaries) from the time of sailing, until the 1st day of October next.

And all the soldiers, by act of Assembly ordered to Block Island, for its security, are hereby ordered on board said sloop Tartar, upon her aforesaid cruise, as part of said number of men appointed.

And the officers and men on board said sloop, are hereby allowed the following wages and encouragements : the captain, £25 per month ; the lieutenant, £15 per month ; the master, £12 per month ; the gunner, £12 per month ; the mates, £11 per month ; the boatswain, £11 per month ; the carpenter, £11

per month ; the surgeon, £15 per month ; and to the sailors, or other hands on board said sloop, £8 per month ; which said captain and lieutenant shall be appointed by the General Assembly ; and the said captain shall appoint all the other officers, and ship the other hands.

And whatever prize or prizes, or part thereof, shall be taken by said sloop, shall be divided among the captors in the following proportion, viz. : one-eighth part to the captain ; two-eighths equally to be divided among the other officers ; and the remaining five-eighths, in equal shares among the men, or their representatives, if any be killed or die.

And during said cruise, the allowance on board said sloop shall be as followeth, viz. : to each man per week, seven pounds of bread, four pounds of beef, two pounds of pork, two quarts of peas or beans, and one pound of butter ; and for every day, each man half a pint of rum.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all necessaries for said sloop, shall at all times be procured at the expense of the colony, by the commissary thereof, and delivered by him to the captain of said sloop ; and in case a sufficient number of men shall not have entered voluntarily on board said sloop, when ready to sail, then the Governor or Deputy Governor, are empowered forthwith to grant a warrant for impressing a sufficient number for cruising, as aforesaid.

Provided, nevertheless, that His Honor, the Governor, is requested speedily to acquaint His Honor, the Governor of Connecticut, with this act of the General Assembly, that said colony of Connecticut may comply with the intent thereof, by fitting out their colony sloop in conjunction, as aforesaid, for guarding the trade, and preserving the interest of both governments, if they shall think fit ; but in case said government of Connecticut shall not join force with this colony by fitting out their sloop, as aforesaid, then the said sloop Tartar is not to be sent out on said cruise by virtue of this act ; but shall be sent out only upon any emergency, as His Honor, the Governor, shall have intelligence, and judge necessary and proper ; any thing afore written, notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissary draw money out of the general treasury, for the purposes aforesaid, and pay the aforementioned wages at the end of every cruise, and account annually, or oftener, as the General Assembly shall direct.

Voted and resolved, that a commissary be now chosen, to take care of the colony's arms, war like stores and other stores, and to perform such other duties as properly belong to said office; and that such commissary shall be hereafter annually chosen by the General Assembly, at their session, held on the first Wednesday in May.

Voted and resolved, that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., and Col. John Cranston, being of the former committee, appointed to take care of the colony sloop Tartar, and to fit her out upon a cruise, do deliver to the commissary the said colony sloop Tartar, with the stores and appurtenances thereunto belonging, taking a receipt for the same; which is to be lodged with an inventory of the stores and appurtenances, as aforesaid in the secretary's office.

And that Messrs. John Tillinghast and Joseph Jacob be a committee to audit the above mentioned committee's accounts, and give them an order upon the general treasurer for the balance that shall appear to be due to them, and make report to the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, there are sundry of the subjects of the king of France, now in His Majesty's jail, in Newport, in the county of Newport;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that in case they, or any of them, or any other of the said French king's subjects otherwise confined in Newport, aforesaid, see cause to remove to the town of Providence, in the county of Providence, and there to subsist themselves, they shall be transported there, and shall remain within said town of Providence, till further orders from His Honor, the Governor, or the General Assembly; and that, if they, or any of them, shall be found without the precincts of the said town of Providence, not having liberty for the same, either from the Governor or from the General Assembly, those

so offending, shall be confined to jail, and there to remain till further orders.

Voted and resolved, that when, and as often as the captain, or lieutenant of the colony sloop Tartar, shall refuse to take their respective offices when chosen, or shall die, His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby fully empowered, in the recess of the General Assembly, to appoint others in their room.

Whereas, the committee appointed at the last session of this Assembly, to prepare the draft of a petition to His Majesty, for a supply of cannon and military stores, did now present the same for the consideration of this Assembly ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said draft be, and it is hereby approved of and accepted ; and that His Honor, the Governor, sign a fair copy thereof, and transmit it to the agent of this colony, by the first opportunity, in order to be presented to His Majesty ; and that the said agent be directed to solicit this affair in the best manner, so as to get an answer as soon as possible.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Deputy Governor, Messrs. Daniel Updike, John Callender and James Martin, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare an answer to the letter from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, in respect to the judge and other officers of the court of vice admiralty, in this colony, and present the same to this Assembly, at their next session.

God save the King.

*Letter from Secretary Willard to Governor Greene.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay,  
Boston, June 5, 1744.

Sir:—This court being apprehensive that nothing will more contribute to the success of the war in these parts, than that the several northern governments in America, shall enter into an agreement with one another, for their mutual assistance, and for carrying on the war in the most effectual manner ;—

We have accordingly chosen and appointed five commissioners, to meet at Albany, the 12th of this month, (where the Governor of New York has appointed to meet with the Six Nations,) to treat with commissioners from the other governments in New England, and agree on such measures as may be thought equal and neces-

sary for their mutual safety and defence, and for annoying their enemies; such agreement to be binding on the respective governments.

We therefore desire Your Honor, that commissioners may be appointed by your government, with the same full power, to transact these important affairs, at the time and place, aforesaid. We pray your excuse for not giving you longer notice of this business. The meeting of the Six Nations of Indians at Albany, on the day above mentioned, gives us such an opportunity of strengthening our interest, which ought not to be lost, and we are but just now apprised of it.

Your Honor's most obedient servants,

In the name and by the order of the Great and General Court of said Province,  
 JOSIAH WILLARD, Secretary.

The Hon'ble William Greene, Esq.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tuesday in August, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that all the soldiers which remain at Block Island, and were not taken on board the colony sloop, be forthwith discharged.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £7 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to John Barker, for bringing the packet from Boston, with His Majesty's declaration of war against France.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Messrs. Peter Mawny and Jabez Bowen, two of the field officers in the county of Providence, amounting to £5 15s., being the expenses at Providence, in the county of Providence, at the declaration of war against France, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tuesday in September, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for ascertaining the quota of the several towns in this colony, to discharge the public rate.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held at Newport, within and for said colony, by virtue of a warrant from His Honor, the Governor, on the 19th day of June last past, among other things passed an act for levying or assessing a rate of £10,000, old tenor, upon the inhabitants of said colony;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the same be assessed upon the several towns in the colony in the proportion following, viz :

	£	s.		£	s.
Newport .....	1,250	00	Jamestown .....	162	10
Providence .....	1,175	00	Smithfield .....	675	00
Portsmouth .....	500	00	Scituate .....	500	00
Warwick .....	700	00	Glocester .....	487	10
Westerly .....	600	00	Charlestown .....	500	00
New Shoreham .....	125	00	West Greenwich .....	350	00
North Kingstown .....	652	10	Coventry .....	233	00
South Kingstown .....	811	05	Exeter .....	432	10
East Greenwich .....	440	00	Middletown .....	405	00

And that the general treasurer grant out his warrant to the several towns for levying the same.

*September 19th, 1744.*

In the house of deputies :



I, the subscriber, beg leave to dissent from the above vote, in respect of the proportion of the rate to the several towns; for that I believe some of the towns, in the outskirts of the government, will be rated at least three or four times as much in proportion to their ratable estate, as some of the frontier towns will in proportion of theirs, who, if any, will receive the most benefit thereby.

RICHARD STEERE.

Whereas, the committee appointed at the last session of this Assembly, to prepare the draught of a letter to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners, for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, in answer to the complaint of Leonard Lockman, Esq., judge of the court of vice admiralty, in this colony, did now present the same for the consideration of this Assembly;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said draught be, and it is hereby approved of, and accepted; and that His Honor, the Governor, sign a fair copy thereof, with a duplicate, and transmit the same to the agent for this colony, by the first opportunities, in order to be by him delivered in London, to Thomas Corbet, Esq., secretary to the said lords commissioners.

Voted and resolved, that the cruise of the colony sloop, be, and it is hereby lengthened out, till the last day of October next ensuing; and that His Honor, the Governor, inform the Honorable Governor of the colony of Connecticut thereof, and request of him that their colony sloop may cruise also till that time.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday of October, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for supplying the agent of this colony, in Great Britain, with money, for defence of the privileges granted by charter.

Forasmuch, as some attempts have been made against the privileges of this colony, as established by charter, which require the speedy application of some money for opposing the same ;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the sum of £550 be remitted to the agent of the colony as soon as may be, to be applied and expended in the just defence of the charter privileges of the colony, so as need shall require.

And for the more speedy procuring and remitting the same, it is enacted and ordered by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of £900, in bills of the new tenor, be struck off upon the large plate, made for the last bank, and signed by the grand committee, and put into the general treasury, to be drawn out by the committee, for the remitting said sum ; which sum of £900, shall be sunk by stopping the proportion of the interest money, which is appropriated for the use of the several towns in this colony, arising from the bank emitted Anno 1738, and so much shall be burnt out of said interest money as soon as the same shall become due to said towns.

And it is further ordered and enacted, that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Samuel Wickham, Esq., and Jonathan Nichols, merchant, be the committee for drawing said money out of the general treasury, and purchasing bills of exchange, silver or gold, and for making remittance home, according to this act.

Whereas, the committee appointed to prepare the draught of a letter of instructions to be sent to the agent of this colony, in Great Britain, for him to oppose the taking away our charter privileges, did present the same for the consideration of this Assembly ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said draught be, and it is hereby accepted and approved of, and that three fair copies thereof, be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent

in three different vessels, to the said agent, as soon as may be.

Whereas, Col. John Cranston, (as captain of Fort George,) did present to this General Assembly, an account of £1,314 1s., for making an addition to the new battery, and making carriages at said fort, and repairing the platforms there; and also one other account, amounting to £1,277 15s. 8d., for the wages of the gunner and twenty-nine other men, with their allowance of board, from the 1st day of May, A. D. 1744, to the 1st day of November, A. D. 1744, craving an allowance of said accounts;—

Whereupon, Messrs. George Brown, Jeremiah Lippitt and Benoni Hall, were appointed a committee to examine said accounts, and make report to this Assembly thereon; who accordingly reported—

That they had examined the several vouchers relating to the account for the work done at said fort, and found due the said sum of £1,314 1s.; and that they also found due for the wages and weekly allowance of the gunner, and other soldiers, the sum of £1,277 15s. 8d.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the aforementioned two sums, amounting to £2,591 16s. 8d., be allowed and paid to the said Col. John Cranston, by John Gardner, Esq., commissary of this colony, for full satisfaction of the several persons concerned in the aforesaid accounts.

Voted and resolved, that all the soldiers at Fort George be immediately dismissed, excepting eight, who are still to be continued there, in order to guard the same.

Voted and resolved, that Joseph Wanton, John Mason, Allen Brown, Joseph Randall, son of William, and Gideon Manchester, all of Providence, in the county of Providence, be admitted freemen of this colony.

Voted and resolved, that Amos Sprague and Thomas Cruff, Jr., of Smithfield, in the county of Providence, be admitted freemen of this colony.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on 28th day of November, 1744.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1744, are printed at length in the volume of laws published in 1747, unless repealed previous to that time.]

- An Act for emitting the sum of £40,000, in bills of public credit, of the new tenor to be let upon loan.
- An Act ordering the committee men for the several towns, to give bond for the faithful execution of their trust.
- An Act directing how mortgages given to the colony's trustees, shall be discharged; and appointing a person with whom said mortgages shall be deposited.
- An Act to prevent the spreading of the small pox, and other contagious sickness in this colony.
- An Act establishing the proceedings and trials of actions not exceeding £5.
- An Act repealing "an act for erecting a court of equity, to hear and determine all appeals in personal actions, from the judgments of the superior court, and for granting reviews in personal actions."
- An Act empowering the sheriffs of the several counties to call special courts.
- An Act to prevent weirs being made across Pettaquamscutt river.
- An Act for preventing trespasses.
- An Act for altering the time for choosing deputies, and proxying for general officers in the several towns in this colony.
- An Act empowering the general treasurer to appoint proper attorneys to sue for interest money due from persons that have left the colony.
- An Act for settling the allowance of Spanish, or other prisoners of war.
- An Act for repealing part of the act passed in 1743, for preventing the counterfeiting of bills of public credit.
- An Act for the relief of those persons who had brought appeals to the court of equity, and which were not determined before said court was abolished.
- An Act for putting the colony in a posture of defence, and for rendering the militia in the several towns thereof more useful in time of an actual invasion.
- An Act for stating the fees on actions not exceeding £5.
- An Act for repealing an act entitled "An act prohibiting inn-holders and other retailers, from trusting the inhabitants above twenty shillings."
- An Act for enlarging a trooper's fine from ten to twenty shillings, for a day's non-appearance.

- An Act granting a salary to one of the committee that shall give bond to take care of the mortgages and tenth bonds, belonging to the colony.
- An Act granting additional fees to the clerks of the several courts, and the town clerks, for recording and copying all writings.
- An Act for putting this colony in a posture of defence, in the present war.
- An Act for fitting out the colony's sloop Tartar.
- An Act for the relief of persons of tender consciences.
- An Act for the augmentation of fees to the attorney general.
- An Act for ascertaining what estate is ratable, and for proportioning the same in value.
- An Act for allowing a lottery of £15,000 for building a bridge over Weybosset river, at Providence.
- An Act for taking off the bounty upon hemp, flax, whale oil, codfish and whale bone.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 5th day of February, 1744—45.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for fitting out the colony sloop, in order to join the forces of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, on an expedition against Cape Breton.

Whereas, there is an expedition began by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in order to reduce Cape Breton, and the assistance of this colony has been requested in said expedition ;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the colony sloop Tartar, be immediately equipped with all necessary warlike stores, by the commissary, and manned with a number of good able seamen, not exceeding one hundred and thirty ; and that all sorts of provision be put on board said sloop by the commissary, also, for four months, according to the allowance stated by law of this colony ; and after she be so equipped and manned with a number

of volunteers, that she immediately proceed to join the forces raised by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, at the place of rendezvous, that shall be appointed by that government; and that she continue in that service, and be subject to the commodore, or council of war, of the naval force of the aforesaid expedition, until the 1st day of June next, if there be occasion of the continuing there so long; at which time, she shall return directly to this colony, unless the captain shall receive further instructions from this government.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the officers and the men belonging to said sloop, shall have and receive the same wages that were stated by an act of the General Assembly, made and passed in June, A. D. 1744; and that they be entitled to all prizes and plunder that they shall take in the said expedition, in the proportion stated in and by said act; and that each man be paid one month's pay in advance, before their sailing from this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for the defraying the charges and expenses of said expedition, the sum of £2,500, in bills of credit of the new tenor, be immediately struck off upon the large plate, that was made for the last bank; and that the same be signed by the grand committee, and delivered to the general treasurer, for that purpose; and that the same be called in and sunk by a tax upon the inhabitants of this colony, the one-half in the year 1748; and the other half in the year 1749; which taxes shall be assessed upon the inhabitants of this colony according to the polls and value of their ratable estates in each town of said colony; and that a captain and lieutenant be appointed for said sloop Tartar, and commissioned; and that the instructions be given to the said captain, by His Honor, the Governor, agreeably to this act.

An Act for laying an embargo on vessels bound to sea, on any emergent occasion.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the Governor of this colony, for

the time being, be, and he is hereby fully empowered, by, and with the advice of his council, to lay an embargo on all vessels in this colony, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, when the same shall to him appear needful.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the first Monday in March, 1744-5.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act in addition to, and in amendment of an act made and passed by the General Assembly, held at Providence, (by virtue of His Honor, the Governor's warrant,) on Tuesday, the 5th day of February, Anno Domini 1744, entitled "An act for the fitting out of the colony sloop, to join with the forces of the Massachusetts Bay, in an expedition against Cape Breton."

Whereas, the reducing of the island of Cape Breton to the obedience of His Majesty, is of the utmost importance to all His Majesty's dominions, and especially to the provinces and colonies in New England; and this colony being willing and desirous to contribute as much as in their power, in joining the forces of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and the other governments concerned in the expedition against said place, and it being thought proper by this Assembly to make an addition to the forces granted in, and by said act;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that the number of one hundred and fifty men be enlisted as soldiers (exclusive of commissioned officers) in order to go in said expedition; and that the said men be di-

vided into three companies, to each of which companies, there shall be appointed by this government, one captain, one lieutenant, and one second lieutenant or ensign; which officers shall be accordingly commissioned by His Honor, the Governor; and all subaltern officers, for the said companies, shall be appointed by the commissioned officers, out of the men which they shall enlist.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the officers and soldiers which shall be enlisted as aforesaid, shall receive the following pay, in the old tenor, viz. :

A captain, £18 per month.

First lieutenant, £12 per month.

Second lieutenant or ensign, £8 per month.

A sergeant, £6 8s. per month.

A corporal, £5 12s. per month.

Drummer, £5 12s. per month.

Each private soldier, £5 per month.

And that one month's pay be advanced to each officer and soldier before they embark in said expedition.

And as a further encouragement for them to enlist in said service;—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each soldier who shall enlist in said service, shall have given him the sum of £6, in bills of the old tenor, as a bounty; and also, a blanket; and that the officers and soldiers shall be entitled to all the plunder they shall take in the said expedition; and no officer shall have a greater share thereof than a private soldier; and that they both, officers and soldiers, shall be discharged as soon as the expedition is over, and shall be exempt from all impresses to any military service, for the space of two years after their return.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no volunteer, who hath already enlisted, or shall enlist into His Majesty's land or sea service, in the said expedition, shall be liable to be arrested, or his goods or his real estate attached by any process or execution, whatsoever, (other than for some



criminal matter,) for, and during the space of six months, except they should return from the said expedition before the expiration of that time, unless for a real debt, or other just cause of action, not under the sum of £100 of the old tenor; and before the taking out such process, not being for a criminal matter, the plaintiff, or some person in his behalf, shall make affidavit before one or more judges of any of the courts of record in this colony, that to his knowledge the sum is justly and really due to the plaintiff from the defendant, in the action on which such process shall issue, or that the debt or damages besides the costs for which such execution shall be issued out, amounts to £100; which affidavit shall be certified by said judge or judges upon the back of said writ or execution, before they are delivered to the sheriff.

And if any person shall be arrested, or their goods or real estate attached, contrary to the intent of this act, it shall be lawful for any judge or judges of such court, on complaint by the party himself, or by his superior officer, to examine into the same, by the oath of the parties or otherwise, and by a warrant under his hand and seal, directed to the sheriff or officer in whose custody the said soldier or his goods or real estate is detained, to discharge such soldier so arrested, or such goods or real estate so attached, on due proof made before him, that such soldier was legally enlisted in said service, and arrested, or his goods or real estate attached contrary to this act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the number of one hundred and thirty men, which was ordered in, and by the said act of Assembly, to be embarked on board the colony sloop going in said expedition, shall be, and they are hereby reduced to the number of ninety; and that the commander of said sloop, and the commissary, govern themselves accordingly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Capt. Jonathan Nichols and Capt. John Tillinghast, be a committee to hire a convenient vessel, to transport the said officers and soldiers in the said expedition.

And that the commissary procure a sufficient quantity of provisions, stores, arms, ammunition, and all other necessaries, for the aforesaid number of soldiers during the said expedition, and that the soldiers be allowed each half a pint of rum per day; and that the commissary make use of the colony's arms for the use of said expedition, if there be a sufficient number over and above what are to be made use of for the colony's sloop.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of £2,500, in bills of credit of the new tenor, which was enacted and ordered to be emitted in, and by the said act of Assembly, for defraying the charges of equipping and manning the colony sloop to go in the aforesaid expedition, be, and it is hereby augmented to the sum of £6,250, of the new tenor, which sum shall be struck off and signed in manner as directed in, and by the said act; and shall be appropriated for the defraying the charge and expense of both the land and sea forces, which are ordered to be sent in the said expedition; and the same shall be called in and sunk by a tax on polls and ratable estates of the inhabitants of this colony, in the following manner, viz.:

One-fourth part thereof to be levied in the year 1748; one-fourth part in the year 1749; one-fourth part in the year 1750; and the remaining fourth part in the year 1751, which taxes shall be proportioned to the several towns in this colony according to the number of polls, and the value of the ratable estates in each respective town.

An Act for encouraging soldiers to enlist to go in the intended expedition against the French settlements on the island of Cape Breton, in the pay of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

Whereas, Capt. Godfrey Malbone has laid before this Assembly several letters from His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, wherein it is proposed, that a regiment, consisting of five hundred men be speedily raised in this colony, for the aforesaid service, and to

be paid by the said Province; and this Assembly being willing to give all due encouragement to a sufficient number of able men to enlist as volunteers in said expedition;—

Be it therefore enacted, that each and every soldier, which hath been, or shall be enlisted by the said Godfrey Malbone, as aforesaid, shall receive from this government the sum of forty shillings, old tenor, as an additional bounty to what is allowed by the said Province, to be paid before they depart out of this colony, viz.: three hundred and fifty soldiers, if so many shall enlist; but if not, to as many as shall enlist, not exceeding that number.

And be it further enacted, that all soldiers who have already enlisted, and shall enlist in said service, as aforesaid, shall be exempt from any process or processes in civil actions, as fully and in the same manner, as those who shall be enlisted for said expedition in the pay of this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Godfrey Malbone be hereby fully empowered and authorized to command, lead and conduct all such soldiers so enlisted, from the places where they shall be enlisted, till they come into the Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

Voted and resolved, that George Taylor, Esq., and Lieutenant William Smith, both of Providence, be, and they are hereby appointed, and fully empowered to enlist soldiers into the service of this government, to go in the expedition against Cape Breton, not exceeding the number of one hundred and fifty men; and what money the said Taylor and Smith shall necessarily expend on said affair, shall be reimbursed to them.

Voted and resolved, that the land forces to be raised in this government, to go in the expedition against Cape Breton, be billeted out by the several captains, under whom they enlist, in the cheapest manner, till they embark, at the expense of the government.

And that the several captains, be, and they are hereby empowered to receive of the commissary, the bounty money, wages and blankets, pursuant to the law of this colony, to distribute amongst their respective soldiers.

Whereas, the two deputies, and divers of the inhabitants of the town of New Shoreham, in the county of Newport, did represent to this General Assembly, the poor, defenceless condition they now labor under in this present war, and craved some assistance from the government for their better security ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that twenty-one soldiers be sent to said New Shoreham, by the 20th day of April next ensuing ; seven out of each county, to be enlisted and sent by the colonels of each county, and there to remain (upon the establishment as those which were sent there last year) until the return of the colony sloop from the expedition against Cape Breton, or till further order from the General Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that the secretary write in behalf of this colony, to the secretary of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, that his letters of the 18th of October last past, and the 2d of this instant March, are but just come to hand ; that we know of none of those rioters being within this colony ; and that the authority of this government has been, and will at all times, be ready to discountenance any persons that shall fly from the justice of that province, upon proper application being made to us ; and that if any persons be appointed to apply to the authority of this government for the aid thereof, in searching after any of those rioters, they shall have all due assistance.

Voted and resolved, that in case any of the officers appointed to command the companies to be raised for the expedition against Cape Breton, should refuse or die, that His Honor, the Governor, be empowered and requested to appoint others in their room ; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to the Governor of Connecticut, and request that our forces be joined to their regiment ; and in case they refuse, that His Honor, the Governor, join them to one of the regiments of the Massachusetts Bay.

Whereas, divers of the inhabitants of the town of Warwick, of the county of Providence, did represent to this General Assembly that there is a great necessity of building a bridge in the highway that leads across Pawtuxet river, from that place, called the Fulling Mill, through the lands of Wecocheconet and

Natick, and up to the town of Scituate, said highway being the most public for the inhabitants of that part of the country to pass in, both to mill and market; and during the winter season, either by ice or floods, the river there is rendered useless to pass, so that the inhabitants and other travellers, are put to great difficulty, and obliged to travel some miles further in bad weather, and therefore prayed the assistance of this General Assembly, in allowing them a sum out of the general treasury for the building of said bridge;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the sum of £60 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury towards building the said bridge, and the same to be drawn by Samuel Barton, Esq., (one of the petitioners,) when the said bridge is built and completed.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to the agent, and send him copies of the evidence taken in this house, respecting the supposed false certificate, whereby it is conjectured that a sum of money has been received by Capt. William Hopkins, of the paymaster general, for forces said to be enlisted on the Cuba expedition, and request of of him to advise with the paymaster general of the King's forces, thereof, and to use his endeavors that the certificate be sent to this government, to prosecute the offender or offenders concerned therein.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 3th day of April, 1745.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Hassard,            Mr. James Arnold,  
 Mr. William Ellery,            Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
 Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Peter Bours, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following are admitted freemen of the colony :

Of Newport, Joseph Ireson, Oliver Child, John Chapman, Fones Haszard, Josias Coggeshall, Jr., John Tanner, Benjamin Jeffers, Robert Robinson, John Griffith, William Torrey, John Rogers, Jonathan Lawton, Nathaniel Grafton, Andrew Hunter, Benjamin Nichols, Ebenezer Clarke, William Arnold, John Goddard, son of Daniel ; George Goulding, Thomas Rodman, Robert Prior, John Thurston, James Perrin, Southcote Langworthy, Zephaniah Pease, John Borden, John Spooner, William Cranston, Jr., Joseph Harrison and Gindefer Lindee.

Of Providence, William Peirce, Samuel Chace, John Battey, Jonathan Whipple, Isaiah Hawkins, Joseph Dexter, John Brown, Jr., Joseph Carpenter, Josiah Olney, Jr., Stephen Sheldon, Oliver Angel, Joseph Comstock, Samuel Winsor, Jr., Dean Kimble, Moses Smith, John Dunbar, Daniel Die, John Briggs, Jr., Nathan Peirce, Thomas Edmonds, Samuel Westcot, Jr., Samuel Burlingame, John Corpe, Nathan Angel, Nedebiah Olney and William Corpe.

Of Portsmouth, Thomas Tripp, Richard Cornell, Clark Cornell, William Butts and Benjamin Talman.

Of Warwick, Azziakim Pearce, John Stone, Josiah Arnold, son of Josiah ; Stephen Greene, Thomas Rice, son of John Rice, Jr. ; Rufus Barton, son of Rufus ; John Walton, Ebenezer Slocum, Pentecost Sweet, Benjamin Sweet, Adam Lockwood, Samuel Finney, Aaron Davis, Thomas Remington, Peter Comet, John Slocum, Oliver Carpenter, Benjamin Stone and Richard Estes.

Of Westerly, Hezekiah Collins, Ichabod Clarke, William Hadsall, John Porter, Richard Bennett, Ezekiel Lewis, Daniel McCoon, Jr., George Drake, Oliver Chase, Gideon Worden, Jonathan Potter, David Wilcox, Jonathan Burdick, John Page and Christopher Sugar.

Of North Kingstown, Hutchinson Clark, Samuel Shearman, John Reynolds, son of Peter ; Thomas Hill, Jr., Thomas Lawtown, Thomas Bissell and Edward Cole.

Of South Kingstown, Caleb Gardner, Thomas Cotterell, Benedict Helme, Samuel Albro, Sanford Case, John Brown, Benjamin Baker, Nathan Tift, Samuel Wilson, Jeremiah Brown, Paul Niles, Benjamin Haszard, son of George ; and Robert Haszard.

Of East Greenwich, John Dexter, Jr., Obadiah Jenckes, Colonel Carpenter, David Vaughan, Daniel Vaughan, John Nichols, Caleb Briggs, Wm. Case, John Gardner, son of Samuel ; Wm. Spenser, Jr., Jas. Andrew, Wm. Carr, Benj. Briggs, Jr., Sam'l Tarbox, Thomas Fry, the 3d, Jonathan Corey, Giles Pearse, son of John ; and John Wall.

Of Smithfield, Enoch Barns, Joseph Morey, son of Daniel ; Abraham Smith, Jr., Elish Morey, Richard Sayles, Jr., Joseph Smith, son of Joseph, John Wilkinson, Jr., Azariah Phillips, David Evans, Jr., Jonathan Bellow, Benjamin Lapham, Peter Bellow, Jr., and John Jenckes.

Of Jamestown, Edward Carr, Jr.

Of Scituate, John Howland, John Gilson, Stephen Wilbore John Mois, Eliza Collins, Jr., Christopher Relph, William Collins, Samuel Sprague, Daniel Tift, David Zeaw, William Blancher, Jr., Jonathan Mowry, Thomas Hudson, Jonathan Aldrich, Joseph Wethered, Joseph Slaughter, Nathan Bennett and Wm. Hammond.

Of Gloucester, Henry Shippey, Joseph Shippey, Job Bartlet, Robert Colwel, Edward Bishop and John Chilson.

Of New Shoreham, William Dodge, Samuel Dodge, John Pain and Samuel Champlin.

Of Charlestown, Benjamin Breman, William Gorton, William

Potter, Jr., Joseph Dodge, Peleg Cross, Richard Boss and Edward James.

Of West Greenwich, Anthony Goff, Robert Hopkins, Maturan Albro, Thos. Wilson, Sam'l Spink, John Tillinghast, Ebenezer Cahoone, Abner Goff, Thomas Joslin, Nicholas Whitford, son of Pascho ; John Dolliver, Joshua Gardner, William Hall, James Hopkins, son of Samuel ; James Hopkins, David Hopkins, John Case, son of John, son of Joseph ; Henry Streight and Daniel Hill, Jr.

Of Coventry, Esek Bowen, Benjamin Corton, Joseph Colvin, John Letson, Robert Letson, Thomas Nichols, Caleb Colvin, Benjamin Andrew, Manser Cooper, Job Matthewson, James Gibson, Daniel Greene, Thomas Greene, Henry Greene, Nathan Goff, John Andrew, William Willson, Richard Herenton, Jr., John Skillion, Thomas Parker, Thomas Haven, Charles Heginbothan, Benoni Price, Benjamin Carpenter, William Phillips, James Lee, John Burlingson, William Phillips, Jr., Francis Brayton and Joseph Weaver, Jr.

Of Exeter, Jeremiah Wilkey, John Hall and Samuel Hall, Joshua Gardner, John Gardner, Jr., Peleg Tripp, Moses Shearman, Joseph Potter, John Casey, Daniel Dawley, Nathaniel Dawley, Benjamin Bentley, Thomas Rathbone, Benjamin Potter, James Moon, James Nichols, Samuel Baker, William Barber, Stephen Wilcox, Thomas Lewis, Samuel Casey, Jr., and Samuel Mowry, Jr.

Of Middletown, Cornelius Clarke, Daniel Gould, Jr., Walter Easton and Jeremiah Rogers.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 1st day of May, 1745.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.



## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Samuel Wickham,  
 Mr. Peter Bours,  
 Mr. Joseph Scott,  
 Capt. George Wanton,  
 Mr. Jonathan Nichols,  
 Mr. James Sheffield.

*Providence.*

Mr. William Smith,  
 Mr. George Brown,  
 Capt. Joseph Borden,  
 Mr. Ezekiel Warner,

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.,  
 Mr. Benjamin Tucker,  
 Mr. Joseph Brownell, Jr.  
 Mr. Adam Lawton.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Jeremiah Lippett,  
 Mr. John Rice, Jr.,  
 Capt. Josiah Arnold,  
 Mr. Benjamin Earle.

*Westerly.*

Mr. William Hern,  
 Capt. Nathaniel Lewis.

*New Shoreham.*

Capt. Robert Hull,  
 Mr. John Dodge.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
 Mr. Thomas Allen.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
 Major Thomas Haszard.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. William Spenser,  
 Mr. Giles Pearse.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. John Paine,  
 Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. John Sayles,  
 Mr. Thomas Arnold, Jr.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
 Mr. Ezekiel Hopkins.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere,  
 Mr. Walter Phetteplace.

*Charlestown.*

Col. Joseph Stanton,  
 Mr. Joseph Hicks.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
 Mr. Thomas Streight.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Robert Greene,  
 Mr. Benjamin Nichols.

*Exeter.*

Mr. Benoni Hall,  
 Mr. Job Tripp.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Robert Nichols,  
 Mr. John Taylor.

Mr. Peter Bours, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Haszard,

Mr. Gideon Cornell,

Mr. William Rhodes,

Capt. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. Daniel Howland,

Mr. Gideon Durfey,

Mr. James Arnold,

Capt. William Rice,

Mr. Benjamin Weight,

Mr. Jeremiah Niles,

SECRETARY.

Mr. James Martin.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. John Gardner.

COMMISSARY.

Mr. John Gardner.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. Samuel Rodman, Tedde-  
man Hull and Abel Franklin, be, and they are hereby appoint-  
ed a committee to view the pier, at Block Island, and see if the  
same be completely finished, and make report to the next ses-  
sion of this Assembly.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode  
Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the fourth  
Tuesday in May, 1745.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for raising three companies of soldiers to join the  
forces of the neighboring governments sent against the  
island of Cape Breton.

Whereas, the town of Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton, is now actually besieged by the forces sent against it, by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and the other neighboring governments, and it having been represented to this Assembly, by the copy of a letter from the general of the said forces that a reinforcement of men is wanting; and lest any enterprise of such importance to all His Majesty's dominions, should be frustrated for want of some timely assistance;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that three companies of soldiers be immediately enlisted in this colony, consisting of fifty men each exclusive of commissioned officers, in order to join the said forces; and that there be appointed to each company, one captain, one lieutenant, and one second lieutenant or ensign; which officers shall be sworn and commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, accordingly; and all subaltern officers shall be appointed by the said commissioned officers of each respective company, out of the men which they shall enlist.

[Here follows the mode of organization of the companies, the rate of pay allowed to the several officers and men, form of oath to be taken, etc.]

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case a sufficient number of volunteers cannot be enlisted, as aforesaid, that then it shall, and may be in the power of the Governor of this colony, to grant forth his warrant to impress so many as will make up the aforesaid number.

Provided, that no person be impressed into said service, excepting transient sea-faring men, and persons who have no certain place of abode, or such as have no visible honest means of getting their living; and if any person shall be impressed contrary hereunto, that then the person so impressed, or any other person on his behalf, procuring a certificate from one or more assistant, justice of the peace, or warden, that he is not such a person as above described, and allowed to be impressed, that then the officer who hath impressed or detained such person, shall immediately discharge him.

And it is further enacted, that each soldier who shall be enlisted, or impressed as aforesaid, shall, as soon as can be conveniently sent to the town of Newport, and there be placed in such convenient place for their subsistence by the commissary as His Honor, the Governor, shall direct, at the charge of the government.

And it is further enacted, that Capt. Jonathan Nichols and Capt. George Wanton, be a committee to hire a convenient vessel or vessels to transport the said officers and soldiers, as well to the said island of Cape Breton, as back again to this colony; and that the commissary procure a sufficient quantity of provisions, stores, arms, ammunition, and all other necessaries for the aforesaid number of soldiers, during the said expedition, allowing to each soldier the same allowance of provisions and rum as is allowed by the law of this colony to the men serving on board of the colony sloop; and that the commissary make use of the colony's arms for the use of the said expedition, if there be a sufficient number over and above what is necessary for the use of the men ordered to be at the fort; and that each soldier shall be armed with a small arm, cutlass and cartouch box.

And it is further enacted, that the aforesaid number of men to complete the said three companies, shall be raised and ready to embark within twenty days after the publication of this act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for a present supply of the treasury, for the defraying the charges and expense of enlisting and paying the said soldiers, and all other expenses relating thereto, the grand committee shall cause to be struck off from the great plate, the sum of £3,750, in bills of the new tenor; and shall sign the same, and deliver it to the general treasurer; which sum shall be appropriated for the uses aforesaid; and shall be called in and sunk by a tax on the polls and ratable estates of the inhabitants of this colony, in the following manner, viz. :

One-third part thereof, in the year 1750; one-third part, in the year 1751; and the remaining third part, in the year 1752; which taxes shall be proportioned to the several towns

in this colony, according to the number of polls and the value of ratable estates in each respective town.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the forces to be raised as aforesaid, be joined to the regiment of the colony of Connecticut; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to Lieutenant General Wolcot, and advise him thereof; and that His Honor, the Governor, put out proclamations in print forthwith, agreeably to this act for encouraging soldiers to enlist.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested to give the necessary order for all prisoners of war within the county of Newport, to be apprehended and kept in safe custody.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested to write to Capt. Daniel Fones, commander of the colony sloop Tartar, and give him instruction to continue in the expedition against Cape Breton, as long as the nature and circumstances of said expedition shall require; unless he shall have instructions from the General Assembly to the contrary.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested to write to the agent, and direct him, that for the future, when he writes to the Governor of this colony, upon the public affairs thereof, that he superscribe his letters to the Governor and Company of the colony of Rhode Island, &c.

Whereas, Messrs. Samuel Rodman, Teddeman Hull and Abel Franklin, were, by the General Assembly, at their session, held in May last past, appointed a committee to view the pier, at Block Island, and see if the same was completely finished, did now make report, that pursuant to the aforesaid vote of the General Assembly, they had viewed the said pier, and found it to be completely finished.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that said report be accepted.

Voted and resolved, that Benjamin Hassard, Peter Bours and Daniel Updike, Esq., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to take into consideration the last petition of the Massachusetts agent, to the Right Honorable the Lords of the

Committee of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, respecting the controversy about the boundaries between the said Province of the Massachusetts and this colony; and make such remarks and form such instructions thereon, as they shall think necessary, and present the same to His Honor, the Governor, in order to be sent to the agent by the first opportunity, and lay a copy thereof, before this Assembly, at their next session.

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to revise the laws of this colony, and get them printed, be, and they are hereby empowered and directed to get all the books bound with marble paper, in the same manner as that which is presented to this Assembly, at the charge of the colony.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. George Wanton and Josias Lyndon, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to procure a draught or plan, of Fort George, and the harbor of Newport, in order to be sent home, for the information of the board of ordnance, in respect to the petition of this colony, to His Majesty, for a number of cannon.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 18th day of June, 1745.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for raising marines to serve on board the ship Vigilant, a man-of-war, now in His Majesty's service, before the harbor of Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton.

Whereas, Peter Warren, Esq., commodore of His Majesty's fleet at Cape Breton, has taken a large French man-of-war, called the Vigilant, the manning of which ship with able sea-

men, will be greatly for the service of His Majesty, and contribute much to the blocking up of Louisbourg, and reducing the same, which this government being informed of, and being ready to promote His Majesty's service in general, and to prevent the good design of the said commodore from being defeated, are willing to give all due encouragement of able bodied sailors to enter immediately into His Majesty's service, on board said ship Vigilant ;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the colony, aforesaid, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a number of able bodied seamen, not exceeding two hundred, be immediately enlisted into His Majesty's service, for manning the said ship ; and that each man who shall so enlist, shall be entitled to a bounty of £17, old tenor, to be paid by this colony ; and that all the sailors that shall be enlisted as aforesaid, be sent to Boston, by the 22d day of this instant June ; and they shall be upon their enlistment, exempted from all arrests and restraints in the same manner as those who enlist in the land service, to go to Cape Breton, are by act of Assembly of this colony exempted.

And that Messrs. Ezekiel Hubbard and Seth Harvey, of said Newport, mariners, be, and they hereby are appointed to enlist seamen in manner as aforesaid ; and that said two gentlemen be recommended by His Honor, the Governor of this colony, to the Honorable Commodore Warren, as persons very suitable to serve His Majesty on board said ship.

And that Capt. Benj. Wickham, be, and he hereby is appointed to receive of the commissary for this colony, the bounty money, and to pay the same to such seamen as shall enlist themselves aforesaid ; and that he take the care and charge of such enlisted men, in behalf this colony, and conduct them to Boston in the best and most expeditious manner he can, in order to be forthwith sent to the said Commodore Warren, in the aforesaid service ; applying to His Excellency, Governor Shirley, for a certificate, that he has discharged his duty herein.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Prov-

ince of the Massachusetts Bay, and inform him what this government has done, in order to raise a number of seamen for manning the ship *Vigilant*, and that he request of His Excellency a certificate that all such seamen as shall be raised in this colony, be entitled to the same privileges as those raised in the province, aforesaid; and that he also write to the Hon. Commodore Warren, and inform him in the same manner, and request of him the same privileges.

Voted and resolved, that no ferryman, boatman, or any other person, transport any seaman off from Rhode Island, for the space of three days from the 19th day of June instant, upon the penalty of £20 fine for every seaman that shall be transported as aforesaid, (except by certificate from His Honor, the Governor,) to be recovered by the general treasurer; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport notify every ferryman on the island of Rhode Island thereof, immediately.

Voted and resolved, that no ferryman, boatmen, or any other person, carry or transport any seaman off from the island of Conanicut (unless to land them at Newport) for the space of three days, upon the penalty of £20, for every person that shall be carried or transported, as aforesaid, from said Conanicut, (unless by a certificate from His Honor, the Governor,) to be recovered by the general treasurer; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport, send a copy of this vote to each of the ferrymen at Conanicut.

Voted and resolved, that the captain of Fort George, be, and he is hereby directed and empowered to stop all sloops, boats, canoes and all other vessels whatsoever, from going out of the harbor of Newport, until the 23d day of June instant, (without the special license of the General Assembly,) and that he take the most effectual method for the same, ferry boats excepted.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, give out warrant immediately to impress forty seamen to man His Majesty's ship *Vigilant*; and if any of those who shall be impressed, shall afterwards enlist, they shall be entitled to the bounty as though they were not impressed; and that the whole be executed between this and 3 o'clock, to-morrow in the after-



noon ; and the officer who shall impress seamen, as aforesaid, is hereby empowered to confine them at the fort, or in prison, as he shall think proper.

Voted and resolved, that Capt. Benjamin Wickham, be, and he is hereby empowered to receive of the commissary what money may be sufficient to pay the expenses of carrying the seamen to Boston, who are, and shall be enlisted, to man the ship of war Vigilant.

Voted and resolved, that the time for completing the three companies, (as well by impressing as enlisting,) to go in the expedition against Cape Breton, and getting them ready to embark, be lengthened out, not to exceed the 30th day of this instant June ; but that the same be done as much sooner as possible.

Whereas, it has been represented to this General Assembly that Ann Franklin has printed a number of colony law books for herself, over and above what she was employed to print for the colony, without the consent of the committee, appointed to get the same printed ;—

It is therefore resolved, that the said Ann Franklin, or any person in her behalf, do not sell any of said books within one year from the rising of this Assembly, upon the penalty of £5 for every book that shall be sold, as aforesaid ; to be recovered by the general treasurer ; and that a copy of this vote be delivered to her by the secretary.

Voted and resolved, that no ferryman, boatman, or any other person, carry or transport any seamen off from Rhode Island or Conanicut, till the 26th day of this instant June, at 3 o'clock, in the afternoon, upon the penalty of £20 fine, for every seaman that shall be transported, as aforesaid ; to be recovered by the general treasurer, (except by a certificate from His Honor, the Governor.)

And that the captain of Fort George, be, and he is hereby directed and empowered, to stop all sloops, boats, canoes and all other vessels whatsoever, going out of the harbor of Newport, until the 26th day of this instant June, at 3 o'clock, in the afternoon, without the special license of the Governor ; and

that the said captain of the fort take the most effectual care for the same, excepting ferry boats ; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport inform the several ferrymen of what relates to them in this act.

Voted and resolved, that all the colony law books, when finished, be lodged in the hands of the general treasurer, and by him to be sold for thirty shillings apiece.

Voted and resolved, that all the soldiers who are enlisted for the expedition against Cape Breton, be forthwith sent to the fort, with their blankets, there to remain till they embark ; and if they can't conveniently lodge there, that they lodge on board the transport.

Whereas, Benjamin Hassard, Peter Bours and Daniel Uptide, Esqs., were at the last session of this Assembly, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the last petition of the Massachusetts agent, to the Right Honorable, the Lords of the Committee of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, respecting the controversy about the boundaries between the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay and this colony, and make such remarks and form such instructions thereon, as they should think necessary, in order to be sent to the agent by the first opportunity, did now make report, and presented some remarks on the petition of Christopher Kilby, Esq., the said Massachusetts agent, which they judged proper for His Honor, the Governor, to transmit to our agent, for this colony ;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the same be accepted and approved of ; and that a fair draught be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to our said agent.

Whereas, Messrs. George Wanton and Jonathan Nichols, were appointed by the General Assembly of this colony, at their last session, as a committee, to hire a suitable vessel for transporting of the forces to be raised to go in the expedition against Cape Breton, did report, that they had hired of Messrs. William Ellery and Philip Tillinghast, both of Newport, in the county of Newport, merchants, a brigantine, called the Success, for transporting the said forces to Cape Breton, aforesaid, as by

a charter party from said Ellery and Tillinghast, will more fully appear, being herewith presented ;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. Ezekiel Hubbard and Seth Harvey, be allowed and paid, each of them, the sum of £40 by the commissary, for their extraordinary trouble in enlisting seamen, &c., for manning the ship of war Vigilant, to be employed in the expedition against Cape Breton, to procure them sea stores, &c.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Ann Franklin, amounting to £6 10s., for printing proclamations and extracts of letters for encouragement of soldiers and seamen to enlist, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury.

Whereas, James Davis, keeper of His Majesty's jail, in Newport, presented an account to this General Assembly, of £40 1s. 3d., for keeping seven French prisoners of war, of which said account was allowed to be paid, £30 1s. 10d., to the said James Davis, in full satisfaction thereof; but he afterwards, at the same session, setting forth, that the said prisoners were very sick, and not one of them able to help himself, nor walk alone, without assistance, required particular diet, care and attendance, which was performed faithfully, and therefore prayed to be allowed his whole account ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said sum of £3 01s. 10d., and considering the extraordinary trouble and charge the said James Davis had with said prisoners, they being in such a low and weak condition, the further sum of £9 12s. and 8d., be both paid to the said James Davis, out of the general treasury, in full satisfaction for his account.

Whereas, George Ninegret, sachem of the Narragansett Indians, did represent to this General Assembly, that his late deceased brother, Charles Ninegret, (who was sachem of the said Narragansett Indians,) did, in his life time give twenty acres of land, as a glebe to, and for the church of England, in Charlestown, in said colony; but his said brother dying before

he had made and executed a deed for the same, the said George Ninegret therefore requested leave of the General Assembly, that he might, by a proper deed for that purpose, establish said twenty acres to, and for said church; and also, to give and convey twenty acres more of his land, in said Charlestown, for the same use, in such place as shall be agreed on by himself and trustees;—

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and enacted, that the said George Ninegret, be, and he is hereby allowed to pass a deed for the said twenty acres of land given by his said brother Charles Ninegret; and also, for the twenty acres of land, that he gives himself, to, and for the use of the church in Charlestown, aforesaid, in such place or places as he and his trustees shall think proper; and that such deed or deeds so given by him, as aforesaid, shall be good and valid in the law, for the uses therein designed, to all intents and purposes whatever.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested, and he is hereby fully empowered to continue out his impress warrant for filling up the companies raised to go in the expedition against Cape Breton, until the transport is sailed, if there be occasion.

Voted and resolved, that the master of the transport proceed with the forces to Nantasket, for the advantage of convoy to Cape Breton; and if no convoy is there to be had soon, that he proceed directly from Nantasket to Cape Breton, and there continue till the expedition against Cape Breton is over.

Voted and resolved, that Messrs. Peter Bours, John Callender and Daniel Updike, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to extract from the records, the several acts and votes passed by the General Assembly, respecting the expedition against Cape Breton, in order to be sent to the agent; and that they write a letter, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and to be sent home, with said votes, setting forth the reasons of this colony's conduct in respect to their not joining in the expedition sooner than they did, to be made use of

in the defence of this colony, if there be occasion, and present a copy of said letter to the next session of this Assembly.

Voted, that Peter Bours and Joseph Scott, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for the taking care of French and Spanish prisoners that shall be brought during the continuance of the war, into the port of Newport, in the county of Newport.

Voted, that Messrs. Henry Paget and Archibald Young, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for taking care of French and Spanish prisoners, that shall be brought during the continuance of the war, into the port of Providence, in the county of Providence.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tuesday in August, 1745.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that the captain of the colony sloop be directed by His Honor, the Governor, to purchase provisions, and other necessaries, at Louisbourg, for said sloop and company, at the best rate he can, and draw upon the commissary for paying the same; and that he make the best dispatch he can home, as soon as he can get a discharge from the Honorable Commodore Warren; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to the said Commodore Warren, and inform him that our colony sloop is the only guard vessel we have for protecting the trade and navigation of this colony, and request him to discharge said sloop as soon as conveniently may be.

And that His Honor, the Governor, also write to the captains of our land forces, in answer to their letter, that it is uncertain until the King's pleasure is known, whether they will tarry at Louisbourg all winter; and that if they do at the charge of this colony, all due care will be taken to supply them with provisions and other necessaries, in season.

And that His Honor, the Governor, likewise give orders to the captain of the transport brigantine, that he come directly home as soon as conveniently he can, unless advice should be arrived at Louisbourg from His Majesty, and our land forces thereupon like to be discharged.

Whereas, William Rice, Samuel Wickham and John Rice, Jr., Esqs., were appointed a committee at the present session of this Assembly, to prepare the draughts of two letters, the one to be sent to the Honorable General Pepperell, and the other to the Honorable Commodore Warren, both at Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton, who accordingly presented the same;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that said draughts be accepted, and that said letters be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent as before directed.

Voted and resolved, that the commissary pay to the soldiers at Cape Breton, in the service of this colony, or to their orders, their monthly wages, upon producing proper certificates from their respective captains, or commanding officers, that there is so much due; and that the officers be paid in like manner.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £150 be allowed to the Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq., Messrs. John Callender, Samuel Wickham and Edward Scott, for revising the colony laws and preparing them for the press; £30 more to the said John Callender, for correcting the press, and the sum of £6 more to the said Samuel Wickham, for firewood, and the use of his room, the whole to be paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Samuel Fowler, amounting to the sum of £14, being for four weeks' board, and extraordinary attendance on John Righton, who received a desperate wound in the service of this colony, when one of the

sheriff's aid to impress men for the service of His Majesty's ship of war *Vigilant*, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Joseph Scott, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, amounting to £20, being for stopping the ferries, impressing soldiers and seamen, and expenses on his officers and press-gang, be allowed, and paid to the said Joseph Scott, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of William Dyre, deputy sheriff for the county of Newport, amounting to £14 10s., for several journeys by him made to the sheriffs of the other counties, for impressing, &c., and for his time and attendance for impressing men in this county, be allowed, and paid to the said William Dyre, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Job Bennett, Jr., amounting to £11, for notifying the general council several times, and for assisting the sheriff in impressing soldiers and seamen, be allowed, and paid to the said Job Bennett, Jr., out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Col. John Cranston, (as late captain of Fort George,) presented to the General Assembly, an account, amounting to £808 9s., being for the wages and board of the gunner and eight other men, for six months, and for wood supplied them; also, for his allowance as captain, and for his care and trouble in repairing the south battery, &c., at said fort, craving an allowance for the whole;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said sum of £800 9s., be allowed, and paid to the said John Cranston, out of the general treasury, for himself and the other persons mentioned in said account, and to be in full satisfaction of the same.

God save the King. .

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the fourth Tuesday in September, 1745.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for raising recruits to fill up the three companies of soldiers now at Cape Breton, in the pay of this colony, and for continuing the said companies there, and for supplying them with provisions, bedding and other necessaries, until His Majesty shall take the place into his own hands, or till further orders from this government.

Whereas, the securing the important acquisition of the fortress of Louisbourg, and island of Cape Breton, with its dependencies, from falling again into the possession of the French, is of the last consequence to His Majesty, as well as to all the northern colonies in America; and it being uncertain whether His Majesty can take the place into his own hands, and settle a garrison therein, before the next spring, and lest it should be lost for want of a sufficient force in the mean time, to defend it against the attacks of the enemy;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, that the said three companies of soldiers, now at the island of Cape Breton, in the pay of this colony, with their officers, shall remain at said place, until His Majesty shall take it into his own hands; or, until they shall receive further orders from this government.

And that Capt. Joshua Champlin, Lieut. Richard Smith and Ensign Joseph Weeden, three of the officers belonging to said companies, be, and they hereby are appointed enlisting officers to enlist a number of able bodied volunteers, not exceeding the



number of twenty-eight, as recruits, to fill up the said companies, which are diminished by sickness and death ; and that the said recruits be enlisted in the same manner, and entitled to the same bounty and the same pay, and all other advantages that were allowed by the law of this colony, to those who were originally enlisted in the said companies ; which recruits shall be enlisted and ready to embark for the said place by the 20th day of October next, at furthest.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissary of this colony do forthwith procure a quantity of provisions of all sorts, sufficient for the said three companies, for eight months, according to the allowance stated by the law of this colony ; saving that instead of the full allowance of rum, stated by law, the said commissary shall provide one half thereof in rum, and the other half in molasses ; which provisions shall be upon their arrival at Louisbourg, delivered to the captains or commanding officers for the time being, in each of the said companies, to be by them distributed or given out to their respective companies.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissary provide two bolts of Osnaburg, in order to be used together with the tents already at said place, in making beds for the said companies of soldiers ; and also, one blanket for each soldier ; which beds and blankets, shall be returned and remain to the use of the colony when the said soldiers are discharged from the service and pay of this government.

And for a further encouragement to render the said soldiers and officers easy in their duty, the commissary shall also provide for their use, one cask of rice, one barrel of sugar, a suitable quantity of hooks and lines for catching of fish, and one hundred pounds weight of shot for fowling.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of £3,000 be remitted by the commissary to the captains or commanding officers of the said companies for the time being, that is to say £1,000 to each company ; which remittance shall be made, the one-fourth part thereof, in bills of public credit, and the other three-fourth parts in coarse

clothing, stockings, shoes, &c., which shall be purchased at the cheapest wholesale price, and shall, together with the bills of public credit, be consigned to the respective captains or commanding officers, as aforesaid, and shall by them be paid and delivered out to their respective soldiers, towards the payment of their wages; and no soldier shall pay any greater or higher price for any clothing, which he shall receive towards his wages, as aforesaid, than the prime cost of the said goods, without any advance or charge for transportation.

And the said captains or commanding officers, shall be accountable to the government for the said sums of money, and quantities of goods, which they shall respectively receive for the payment of their companies, as aforesaid; and in case any of the said goods shall remain upon their hands unsold, at their return or discharge from the service of the colony, that then the commissary shall receive them back at the same rates they were delivered, and discount so much out of the sums charged to the said officers.

And be it further enacted, that Messrs. George Wanton and Jonathan Nichols, be a committee to hire a suitable vessel for the transporting of the men, provisions and all other stores and goods mentioned in this act, to the said island of Cape Breton, at the charge of this government, or make use of the colony sloop for that purpose, if they think proper, in case she return timely.

Provided, nevertheless, and it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case advice should come, that His Majesty has taken said fortress of Louisbourg, into his own hands, before the recruits, provisions and other necessaries mentioned in this act, are sent from this colony, so that they will thereby be rendered unnecessary, that then in such case, His Honor, the Governor, with the advice of the council, is hereby authorized to stop the same, and discharge the said recruits; and His Honor, the Governor, is hereby further directed to give instructions to the master of the vessel, who shall transport the said men, provisions and other necessaries, to Cape Breton,

that if, at his arrival at said place, it shall be taken into His Majesty's hands, as aforesaid, that then he return back with his said transport vessel, men, provisions, &c., to this colony, without delivering any of them for the uses, aforesaid.

**An Act for supplying the general treasury with money for defraying the charge of supplying the colony sloop, and the three companies of soldiers in the pay of this colony, at Cape Breton.**

Whereas, the colony sloop and the soldiers sent to the island of Cape Breton, in the pay of this colony, are obliged to remain at said place much longer than was expected, when they were sent, whereby the money appropriated for that service, falls greatly short of defraying the charge and expense of said expedition, so that a further supply of the general treasury is become absolutely necessary for the making up of the deficiency;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that the sum of £5,000, in bills of public credit, of the new tenor, be immediately struck off upon the large plate, that was made for the last bank, and that the same be signed by the grand committee, and delivered to the general treasurer, for the uses abovesaid; and that the same be called in and sunk by a tax upon the inhabitants of this colony; one-half thereof, in the year 1747; one-fourth part, in the year 1748; and the remaining fourth part, in the year 1749; which taxes shall be assessed upon the inhabitants of this colony, according to the polls and value of ratable estates in each town.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, did take into consideration several letters received from the Hon. Jonathan Law, Esq., Governor of the colony of Connecticut, respecting some counterfeit plates for impressing bills in imitation of the bills of public credit of this colony, and the persons concerned therein, requesting a reward, who made a discovery thereof; and as our bills of public credit pass in the other govern-

ments, and they having penal laws for punishing persons counterfeiting the bills of this colony, in the same manner as for counterfeiting their own ;—

It is therefore the opinion of this General Assembly, that all charges arising on prosecuting and convicting persons guilty of the aforesaid crimes, should be paid by the government where such crimes are perpetrated.

And thereupon, it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to the aforesaid Governor Law, informing him of this result ; and that this government has frequently been at the expense of prosecuting offenders that have been accused of making and uttering bills of the neighboring governments.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested to send for Messrs. Jos. Harrison and Peter Harrison, who have presented this Assembly with a handsome draught of Fort George, and the harbor of Newport, very ingeniously drawn, and give them the thanks of this Assembly.

Whereas, Daniel Goddard, of Newport, in the county of Newport, did, by petition, set forth to this Assembly, that eight French prisoners of war, viz. : four men, two women and two children, had been boarded by him, and found in provisions, fire wood, candles and all other necessaries, for the space of twenty-six weeks, in all for one person ; that is to say, one man and his wife and two children, four weeks ; one other man and his wife, two weeks ; and the two other men, three weeks ; which amounts in the whole, to twenty-six weeks, and for which he humbly prayed to be allowed a just and reasonable satisfaction ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said Daniel Goddard be allowed, and paid twenty-five shillings per week for boarding the aforesaid persons ; and that the whole being £32 10s., be paid to the said Daniel Goddard, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the account of John Pearse, amounting to £30 13s. 4d., as deputy sheriff of the county of Providence, for the horse hire, expenses and time of himself and aid in impressing men for the expedition against Cape

Breton, carrying them to Providence, and from thence bringing them to Newport, be allowed, and paid to the said John Pearse, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build a bridge over Weybosset river, in Providence, in the county of Providence, go on and build said bridge as soon as conveniently may be, and as good an one as they can with the money appropriated to that use.

Voted and resolved, that the committee that was appointed to procure a plan of Fort George and the harbor of Newport, procure another draught or plan of said fort and harbor exactly as the same now are, without any alterations, and present the same to the next session of this Assembly.

God save the King.

*Order of the Duke of Newcastle, to the respective Governors of the colonies in North America.*

Whitehall, January 3d, 1744-5.

Sir :—His Majesty having thought it necessary for the security of the colonies in North America, and particularly of the Province of Nova Scotia, (which has been already invaded by the French, and upon which there is great reason to apprehend that they will early in the spring, renew their attempts by the attack of Annapolis Royal.) to employ such a strength of ships of war, in those seas, under the command of Commodore Warren, as may be sufficient to protect the said province, and the other neighboring colonies in North America, and the trade and fishery of His Majesty's subjects in those parts; and may also, as occasion shall offer, attack and distress the enemy in their settlements, and annoy their fishery and commerce.

I have His Majesty's commands to signify to you his pleasure, that if Mr. Warren shall apply to you for assistance, either of men, provisions, or shipping, to enable him to proceed either to the relief and succor of Annapolis Royal, or of any other of His Majesty's forts or settlements, or for making any attempts on the enemy, you should, in all such cases, to be aiding and assisting to him in the most effectual manner: and according, as upon consultation together, shall be judged proper for carrying on His Majesty's service; and you will be ready to concert and advise with Mr. Warren upon all occasions that may arise, which shall have relation to the services on which he is employed; and particularly you will procure and communicate to him the best intelligence you shall be able to obtain of the state and condition of the enemy's settlements, and of the ships in their harbors, that he may be enabled to judge whether it may be practicable and advisable to make an attempt upon any of their ports.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

To the Governor of the colony of Rhode Island.

[The following letters chiefly relate to the expedition against Louisburg and Cape Breton, and other events growing out of the war with France.]

*Governor Shirley of Massachusetts to Governor Greene.*

Boston, 28th March, 1745.

Sir:—I am informed that your government have agreed to raise one hundred and fifty men for the expedition against Cape Breton, and to send your colony sloop in the same service; and as the government of Connecticut will have their forces ready early in the next month, and are solicitous for their getting safe to Cape Breton, I cannot but think it will be for the convenience of both governments, if you could join your forces, and proceed together upon this voyage; and in case any thing should hinder your raising the forces proposed, yet I hope you will think it necessary for His Majesty's service, to send your colony sloop for the safeguard of the troops from Connecticut.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most humble and obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

P. S. Sir:—I hope, if you can't otherwise man your sloop, you will not scruple, upon this extraordinary occasion, to impress seamen, as this government has done; and if it should happen that the one hundred and fifty land forces are not raised, pursuant to the vote of your Assembly, Your Honor will at least make up the complement of your colony sloop, one hundred and thirty men, as at first voted.

Hon'ble William Greene, Esq., or in his absence,  
the Hon'ble Joseph Whipple, Esq.

*Governor Clinton, of New York, to Governor Greene.*

New York, 15th April, 1745.

Sir:—I have just received an authentic account from the West Indies, of the arrival of the Chevalier de Cailus, at Martinique, with seven sail of ships of war; two of seventy-four guns, two of sixty-four, two of fifty-six, and a frigate of thirty-six guns, with upwards of twenty sail of transports, and thirty-six hundred troops, with an intent to make an attack on some of the British islands there; and as I find the intelligence of the expedition now carrying on against Cape Breton, is generally spread in these parts, it is very probable that the French commander will not be long without the account, which I apprehend may divert the thoughts of his original intentions to come to the defence of that place; and in case the English forces should be defeated, it highly behoves all the governments upon this continent to consider well what may be the consequences of such an event.

I have therefore thought it necessary to give you this information, that you may be upon your guard, and in readiness not only to defend yourselves, but to assist your neighbors with your utmost force, both by sea and land, in case of need.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

GEO. CLINTON.

The Hon. William Greene, Esq.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, May 3, 1745.

Sir:—The occasion of this letter is something that has lately happened in the county of Bristol, which tends much to the obstruction of His Majesty's service in this Province.

I gave orders to Col. Bowen and Col. Willis, to impress a number of men out of their respective regiments, for the defence of the frontiers of this Province; and the said orders were executed accordingly; but the greatest number of [the] men that were impressed, absconded after their impressment, which is contrary to the laws of this Province; and many of them are supposed to be retired into your government.

I need not take much pains to show Your Honor of what pernicious consequence it must be, if these men should meet with the least encouragement within your government; a few days delay may cost the lives of many innocent people on the frontiers, that now want the protection of this government; I have enclosed a list of those mens' names belonging to Col. Bowén's regiment, who are supposed to be gotten into your colony; and I desire that Your Honor would give effectual orders to your officers, forthwith to search for the said persons, and if any of them may be found, to secure them, and convey them safe into this Province, and there deliver them to Col. Thomas Bowen, that so they may be put into His Majesty's service abovementioned, or suffer the penalty of the law, in that case provided.

I am the more earnest in this affair, because if such disobedience to the authority of His Majesty's government, be not discouraged, but the offenders finally escape from justice, these examples will soon be multiplied; and what detriment will arise to His Majesty's service, thereupon, Your Honor will easily judge.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, May 18, 1745.

Sir:—I am obliged once more to make application to you, for the assistance of your government in the immediate raising of some troops for supporting the expedition against Cape Breton; which the general of our land forces, and the commanders of the fleet have represented to me very necessary for the reduction of the place.

How far Providence has hitherto favored us in this attempt, and what encouragement we have to proceed in it, you will find by the enclosed copy of a letter I have just now received, from the general of our forces; and as I am informed it is pretended, to color the backwardness in some of the colonies and provinces, to join with us in this enterprise, that the undertaking of it without His Majesty's express order would be so far from recommending us to his favor, that it would tend to incur his displeasure, I am now able to remove that objection, and to acquaint Your Honor, that upon my letter to His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, informing him of our

resolution to undertake this affair, and how far we had proceeded therein, (which letters were laid before His Majesty,) His Majesty and his ministers were pleased so far to manifest their approbation of our undertaking, that, without the least loss of time, two ships of war were ordered to proceed directly to Louisbourg, to support us herein; and as they had before, upon my more general intimation of a design of this nature, ordered commodore Warren to come from the West Indies, and attend this service, who is now before Louisbourg, with five of His Majesty's ships of war; and will, in a few days, be joined with two other of His Majesty's ships; one of sixty, and the other of forty guns, which are already sailed from hence, upon that service; and I am fully assured that His Majesty has the success of this expedition much at heart.

And now, sir, as this Province has (in conjunction with the Province of New Hampshire, and the colony of Connecticut,) at an immense charge, undertaken this important expedition, and so far proceeded therein, under the favorable aspects of Divine Providence, and the gracious approbation and assistance of His Majesty, I must desire that your government would maturely consider how great a benefit the acquisition of this place will be to the future safety and tranquillity of all these northern colonies; and how justly His Majesty may resent a refusal of any of 'em to join in the common cause, and how much such government may hereafter regret their unseasonable frugality, if by denying at this crisis to contribute their just quota for the carrying on and support of this expedition, which is now brought so near to an happy event, they should prove the means of its fatal miscarriage.

This representation of the state of our case, my duty to His Majesty obliges me to make; and I must earnestly press your government to give it a full consideration, and send me a speedy answer, as to their resolutions thereupon.

I am, sir, Your Honor's humble obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

The Hon'ble Gideon Wanton.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, June 5, 1745.

Sir:—I have herewith enclosed two proclamations, which I have just now issued on occasion of the expedition against Cape Breton, with an extract of my letter from Commodore Warren, and a vote of the General Court here, for encouraging the enlistment of seamen for manning the ship *Vigilant*, prize, by which you will know what want there is, both of soldiers and seamen, for this service.

As to the first, I have already written fully to Your Honor thereon; and you will likewise know what encouragement this government has offered for both. I am persuaded your colony can furnish a good number of seamen, and must therefore desire that you would use your best endeavors for providing as many as can be had in your colony, and that as soon as may be.

I am, sir, Your Honor's obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon'ble Governor Wanton.

In the House of Representatives, June 1, 1745.

Voted, that His Excellency, the Captain General, be desired, as soon as may be, to cause to be impressed such seamen as are foreigners, belonging to all inward



bound vessels, (coasting and provision vessels coming from the northward of South Carolina, on the continent, excepted,) in order for manning the *Vigilant*, a ship of war, lately taken by the Hon'ble Commodore Warren, from the French; and that there be allowed and paid out of the public treasury, the sum of £3, to every other able bodied man that shall voluntarily enlist himself in His Majesty's service, for the manning the said ship, the *Vigilant*, to make up in the whole, with those impressed, the number of three hundred men.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, June 6, 1745.

Sir:—Notwithstanding I have but five days ago applied to you for the assistance of your government in manning the *Vigilant* prize, for His Majesty's service, at Cape Breton, I find it necessary to trouble you with a second letter upon that affair; for although the General Assembly of this Province has granted a bounty of £3, in bills of the new tenor, to each volunteer that shall enlist; and I have besides issued my warrants for impressing seamen for this service, I find my endeavors will be to little purpose, whilst all mariners subject to be impressed here into His Majesty's service, fly to Rhode Island to avoid it, (as indeed has been long the practice,) and are there sheltered and encouraged, where (I am credibly informed,) there are at this time many hundreds of foreign seamen daily walking the streets of Newport, whilst scarce one is to be found in Boston; from whence I am assured in particular, that upwards of twenty have secretly fled towards your colony from my impress warrants, within these last two or three days.

This being the case, sir, I think it necessary to inform you of it; and as I have the honor of receiving (among other instructions from His Majesty, upon this occasion,) his express commands to supply Commodore Warren with what men and shipping he shall want for the protection of His Majesty's subjects in his northern colonies, and the annoyance of his enemies, and their settlements in these parts; and Mr. Warren has applied to me to furnish him with seamen, to man the *Vigilant*, for His Majesty's service, at Cape Breton, I hope you will excuse me if I repeat my application to your government for that purpose; and that particularly at so critical a conjuncture for His Majesty's service, and the general interest of all his northern colonies, (in which your own has a very considerable share,) as the present emergency plainly is, you will exert yourselves in the most effectual manner, for furnishing Mr. Warren with seamen, which, I am satisfied, it is in the power of your government to do, either by offering the same bounty to volunteers as this government has done, or by impressing; and that you will not permit your colony to be an assylum to all mariners coming into New England, for screening themselves from His Majesty's service; especially, when Mr. Warren has offered all volunteers the advantageous terms of entering into pay from the time of their enlistment; and being discharged, if they desire it, at the end of the expedition, or his sooner return to Boston; which makes their declining to serve their king and country, upon this occasion, wholly inexcusable.

I am, sir, Your Honor's obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon'ble Gideon Wanton, Esq.

*Commodore Sir Peter Warren to Governor Wanton.*

Saperbe, in Louisbourg Harbor, the 24th June, 1745.

Sir:—

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you, that we are in quiet possession of the town and garrison of Louisbourg, and the territories thereunto belonging; and that it is my duty, pursuant to the orders I have received, to apply to you, and the different governors upon the continent, for such provision and men as I may want; and I never had more occasion for your assistance than at present, in order to keep possession of a garrison that is a key to all the French settlements upon the continent, and of which possession every colony will feel the good effect; therefore hope you will send with all speed, your quota of men, armed and victualed for at least seven or eight months, to remain here for the support of this garrison, till His Majesty's pleasure is known; till which time I shall continue here.

You will please to advertise, all His Majesty's subjects that are willing to come to this port, to trade with the garrison and inhabitants, shall have free liberty, without any duty or imposition, whatsoever; and that none of their people shall be molested or impressed into His Majesty's ships of service; and there are several prizes here, which will be condemned and disposed of, and many more will no doubt fall in daily, by our cruisers.

I make this application to all your neighboring governors, and have begged them to recommend the consideration of this my request, to their different legislatures, who can't in any manner, give greater proofs of their loyalty to His Majesty, their love to their country, and their care of posterity, than by assisting me with the means of keeping possession till His Majesty can make provision for it of a garrison and a colony, that in its consequence will be the means of extirpating so dangerous an enemy as the French are, out of the continent; and of uniting such nations of Indians to us, and to one another, as will greatly increase our fur and fish trade; and secure us, and our posterity, in the quiet possession of our civil and religious rites.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant, P. WARREN.

To the Governor or Commander-in-chief of Rhode Island.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, June 24, 1745.

Sir:—The siege of Louisbourg having quite exhausted all our magazines of powder, except a necessary store for Castle William, and it being uncertain what further demand of powder there may be, for His Majesty's service at that place, and when any further supplies of it may be brought in here; I must desire Your Honor to lay an embargo upon all the powder now lying in your stores or magazines, (as I have done for several months past, in this Province,) so as to secure it for some time for the service of the present expedition against Cape Breton, at the market price, in case it should be wanted.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To His Honor, Governor Wanton.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, July 3d, 1745.

Sir:—I have now the pleasure to send Your Honor, by express, the news of the reduction of Louisbourg to the obedience of His Majesty, and the surrender of it accordingly. But to maintain our conquest there, which is of the utmost importance, will require the assistance of all His Majesty's colonies and provinces in North America, for furnishing men, ammunitions and provisions, for garrisoning and provisioning the place till His Majesty shall order troops from Great Britain, or otherwise signify his pleasure in this affair; and I apprehend this to be the most critical juncture for securing it from the attempts of the enemy to recover it; for it cannot be doubted but that the French king will soon send a strong force, both of ships and troops to reduce it before we can be well secured in the possession of it; and you may reasonably judge that this Province is already drained of men, provisions and ammunitions.

However, we are still so heartily engaged in this service, that we have lately sent four hundred troops, who I suppose arrived at Louisbourg since the surrender of it, besides upwards of sixty seamen for manning of His Majesty's ship *Vigilant*; and have about two hundred soldiers more embarked, and ready to embark, whom I shall get away with all possible despatch; and I cannot but hope Your Honor and the General Assembly of Rhode Island, will, in duty to His Majesty, and in regard to the common interest of all his subjects in North America, make provision for the raising of a number of soldiers immediately for this service, and have them transported without delay; and likewise give orders for the taking up and purchasing all the gunpowder and provisions that can be got for the garrison at Louisbourg, and the ships employed there; of both which they are in want, as the general and commodore inform me; as also provisions for the French prisoners to be sent home to France; and as this will require a vast quantity, (of provisions especially,) it is my opinion that no provisions ought to be allowed to be shipped off from the plantations where they are raised, to the West Indies, or any foreign parts whatsoever, till this want be supplied.

It will also be requisite that all the gunpowder that can be found in your colony except what may be absolutely necessary for your own defence, should be secured for His Majesty's service.

And I should think if Your Honor will employ some merchants in your place for the purchasing of the powder, who will be able to find it out better than your own officers, it will be the most likely of being furnished with a good quantity of it, of which this Province is almost entirely exhausted; having sent off for the expedition against Louisbourg about twelve hundred barrels; and I hope that you will consider that both the garrison and ships will want a considerable supply.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.

Capt. Wickham arrived here some days ago, with seventy-four sailors, raised in your colony, by your government, for the *Vigilant*; sixty-one of whom, are embarked on board the *Snow* ———, Capt. Griffith; and I hope you will procure the

whole two hundred voted by your Assembly ; and some more landmen, if possible ; for there is certainly great danger of Louisbourg's being instantly snatched from us, or at least attempted to be so, before His Majesty shall garrison it, and the fortifications be repaired.

And I must particularly press Your Honour to procure all the powder you possibly can for this service, the want of which must prove fatal to us, notwithstanding our strong naval force.

W. S.

*Sir Peter Warren to Governor Wanton.*

Louisbourg, July 25, 1745.

Sir:—I have the pleasure to tell you, that two of my squadron have taken a rich East India ship, and that we proposed to sell her cargo here, if the merchants will come from the colony to purchase it.

Herewith I enclose you an advertisement, which I desire you will get printed, and distributed about your government, in order to the people's being here in time, as the season is now far advanced.

I am in daily expectation of the provisions and men, that I wrote to you for, for the protection of this important garrison.

I am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

P. WARREN.

Honorable Gideon Wanton, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.

*Governor Wanton to Commodore Sir Peter Warren.*

Newport, August 23, 1745.

Sir:—Since my last to you, I have had the opportunity of laying before the General Assembly of this colony, your letters, with a copy of His Majesty's orders, signified by His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, to the respective Governors of the colonies in North America, to assist you with men, provisions and shipping, for the relief of any of His Majesty's settlements, or for making any attempts upon those of the enemy.

And I am directed by them, to assure you, that none of His Majesty's subjects more sincerely rejoice at the glorious success of His Majesty's arms in the reduction of a place of such vast importance to his obedience, than this colony ; and that none of His Majesty's provinces or colonies, will be more ready than this to give you their utmost assistance in making any attempts against His Majesty's enemies, or in the securing and defending this most important acquisition ; but as this colony is very small, and by its situation very much exposed to the attacks of the enemy by sea, and great numbers of our men employed on board our privateers to distress the enemy in their trade and navigation, and as they have already been at a very great expense in keeping their only vessel of war at Cape Breton, ever since the beginning of this expedition, and in sending and victualling three companies of soldiers to assist in defending Louisbourg ; and also in allowing a large bounty to a number of seamen to enlist and serve in the squadron of His Majesty's ships under your command ; they hope these will be looked upon as their full quota, and as sufficient demonstrations of their duty and loyalty to His Majesty.

I am, sir, further directed to assure you, that if His Majesty's service should require our three companies of soldiers to remain in garrison at Louisbourg, all winter, in the pay of this colony, that all due care will be taken by the government to send them, in season, provisions, and all other necessaries, for their subsistence.

The General Assembly thank you for the favor and respect you have shown to Capt. Fones, the commander of our colony's sloop Tartar; and they hope you'll be so good as to discharge her as soon as the nature of His Majesty's service will admit of it, she being the only vessel of war that we have for the protection of the trade and navigation of this colony.

Your known generosity leaves us no room to doubt but that you will do justice to this colony, in letting His Majesty know what assistance we have given in this expedition; and we the rather request this favor of you, sir, because we have reason to believe that some of our neighbors have no great inclination to represent our conduct in the best light.

We heartily congratulate you, sir, upon the success of His Majesty's ships under your command, in taking so many rich and valuable prizes. May zeal and fidelity in His Majesty's service be always thus rewarded, and may success attend you in all your attempts, until your name become a terror to a haughty and insolent enemy.

I heartily wish you health, and am, with best regards,

in behalf of the General Assembly, sir, yours,

GIDEON WANTON.

To the Honorable Commodore Warren.

P. S. Sir:—As the General Assembly have ordered the brigantine, which transported our soldiers to Louisbourg, to return home immediately, unless any directions should be come from His Majesty to dismiss our soldiers in a short time, they have directed me to desire you'd be pleased to give her a pass to depart.

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*Capt. Fones to Governor Wanton.*

Sloop Tartar, in Louisbourg harbor, July 18, 1745.

Honored Sir:—I heartily congratulate you on your accession to the government.

Your letter per Capt. Champlain, I received yesterday, (but you forgot to date it,) wherein you inform me that you would have me wait the commodore's pleasure; he will by no means give me my dismission, and I am entirely out of stores of every kind; and am obliged to take up provisions for present subsistence here, and draw home, which will be very expensive.

I wrote home several times, which I hope were delivered safe, but received no letter from Your Honor before yesterday; I arrived here the evening before last, from the Bay of Vert, and have the pleasure of walking Louisbourg streets, which is the strongest place I ever saw; for news, it is impossible to give you an account, in a letter, but refer you to the prints; my people are all alive, and most of them well.

I am, honored sir, your humble servant, to command,

DANIEL FONES.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton.

P. S. The forces from Rhode Island arrived safe, the day before yesterday.

*General Sir Wm. Pepperell, to Governor Wanton.*

Sir:—I received your favor of 29th June, per Capt. Mumford, and take this opportunity, per Capt. Griffith, to congratulate you and the gentlemen of Rhode Island colony upon the happy success of His Majesty's arms, in the reduction of this place and territories adjacent, to his obedience; the account of which, I am sensible, has reached you some time since, and am persuaded was received with that pleasure which must fill the breast of all His Majesty's loyal subjects, and of every well wisher to the prosperity of the colonies, upon the acquisition of so strong a fortress and of so much consequence to trade and security of all His Majesty's subjects in North America; the good effects of which, I trust, will be as lasting as extensive.

The three companies raised in your colony for our assistance, with commission from you, (whose advancement to the chair of government I beg leave to congratulate you on,) arrived here last week, and you may be assured shall have my favor and countenance in every thing in my power.

I have transmitted to the Duke of Newcastle an account of our success, and the present condition of this place, and am persuaded speedy measures will be taken for the support and defence of it; but till His Majesty's pleasure is known, it will be absolutely necessary to keep a large body of troops here; and as many of those who first came, have been detained beyond what they expected, they will be impatient to return to their families, which will render a supply of fresh troops necessary, as it is something doubtful whether any can be sent from Europe this year.

A great stock of provisions and warlike stores to be laid in here, before the fall advances too far, is also of necessity. I think there ought to be at least twelve or fifteen months' provisions, for three or four thousand men; and I flatter myself that those governments who have been ready to join their assistance for the reduction of this place, will not be backward in affording their aid in what may be necessary for keeping it from ever falling into the hands of the French again.

I have nothing remarkable to communicate to you, more than you will be made acquainted with by way of Boston; except the taking a ship off this harbor, two days since, which proved a very rich East Indiaman; and am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

W. P.

Louisbourg, July 25th, 1745.

Sir:—The above is copy of my last; since which, have nothing remarkable to inform you of, but the capture of another Indiaman, and a vastly rich South Seaman. I hope your government will not omit to do their proportionable part for the maintenance of this garrison, until His Majesty's pleasure is known.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

WM. PEPPERELL.

August 13th, 1745.

The Hon'ble Governor Wanton, &c., &c., &c.

*Capt. Fones, to Governor Wanton.*

Sloop Tartar, in Louisbourg harbor, July 30th, 1745.

Honored Sir:—Since my last, we have had the good fortune of taking two India merchant ships; I had the pleasure of seeing them both taken; I have buried three of my people, and have several others sick.

As you have ordered me to wait the commodore's pleasure, I am obliged to buy provisions at an extravagant rate; and am this day stripping my rigging, which proves very defective; so that you must think my bills on the government will be many and great; and when we shall be released, I know not; for the commodore likes the sloop so well, that he will by no means part with her, unless Your Honor sends express orders to the contrary.

For my own part, I wait your and the commodore's orders with the greatest of pleasure,

And am, honored sir, your most humble servant,

DANIEL FONES.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton.

*Governor Phipps to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, August 14, 1745.

Sir:—At the desire of His Majesty's council of this Province, I am now to acquaint Your Honor with the present state of the garrison at Louisbourg, (as it is represented by a letter from Lieut. General Pepperell, directed to Governor Shirley, dated the 6th instant, this day received,) which garrison consists principally of the inhabitants of this Province.

In the proclamation issued by His Excellency, Governor Shirley, to encourage the raising of levies for this expedition, the men that should enlist were promised to be discharged at the end of the expedition; the greatest part of the soldiers, as well as officers, are substantial men, and many of them masters of families; and a considerable number were drawn off from the frontiers, where their families are every day liable to be murdered by the Indians. These circumstances, as well as the extreme toils and labors of the siege, the ill state of their health, consequent thereupon, and the wearing out of their apparel in this service, gives a general discontent to the soldiers, upon the prospects of a longer detention therein.

And as this Province is exhausted of men, provisions, clothing, ammunition and other things, necessary for the support of the garrison, at Louisbourg, if His Majesty's other provinces and colonies will not do something more than they have done, for the maintaining of this conquest, we apprehend great danger that the place will fall into the enemy's hands again; for it is not to be doubted but that the French will make a vigorous attempt for regaining it.

I must therefore pray Your Honor to make a full representation of the state of this affair, and how ill it must be resented by His Majesty, if after this Province (with the assistance of Connecticut and New Hampshire,) has been at the charge of above £200,000 for the reducing this place, besides the great loss and damage by taking off so many of the substantial inhabitants of this Province from their business, and the general stagnation of trade here, occasioned by this expedition; I say, if after this place has been gained at so vast an expense, and so unspeakable a loss in other respects, to this Province, the other provinces (saving Connecticut and New Hampshire, as abovementioned,) should apprehend they have done their duty, by being at the charge of a few thousand pounds; and if this place should be finally recovered by the French, for want of a sufficient strength to defend it, the blame must lie upon those colonies that refuse to bear their part in the charge and dangers of this important enterprise.

Your Honor having from the beginning manifested so hearty a disposition to

promote this great affair, leaves us no room to doubt but you will do every thing in your power to bring your Assembly into such measures as are necessary for the preservation of Louisbourg to His Majesty; and more especially, for raising of recruits for the garrison there, and taking up provisions and ammunition necessary for their supply.

By the express boat now arrived from Louisbourg, we have certain intelligence, that besides the first Indiaman taken by Commodore Warren's squadron, (of which we were advised the last week,) they have taken another Indiaman, richly laden and a South Seaman, with £400,000 in money, besides a valuable cargo of merchandize; all which were taken in sight of the garrison; so that it is judged that the value of the captures made on that coast, by His Majesty's ships, is near £1,000,000, (if not more), which it is probable would never have fallen into our hands if this expedition had not been attempted.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,  
The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq. PHIPPS.

*Sir William Pepperell to Governor Wanton.*

Sir:—I received with pleasure, your letter congratulatory, in the name of your colony, upon the success of His Majesty's arms and my command here; and as you express the full sense your colony has of the consequences of this acquisition to the trade and security of the plantations, &c., and your readiness to support the troops lately sent here by your government, if His Majesty shall judge it necessary, I take this opportunity to say to you, that it's uncertain when His Majesty's pleasure will be known; but it's my opinion that the continuance of your troops here, and your support of them till that time, will be acceptable to the King, and that therefore you make the speediest provision for them during the approaching winter, of provisions of various kinds, of good bedding and serviceable and warm clothing, fit for soldiers, in the most inclement climate.

There is a deficiency of twenty-eight men in the companies you sent, occasioned as per the enclosed note, a memorandum given me in, per Capt. Smith. I hope you will not fail to supply that vacancy as soon as possible; and especially since there is a squadron of French men-of-war on or near this coast, who may make some sudden and bold push, to our disadvantage, if the garrison be not well manned; or should they return, and not attempt it this fall, we may the more reasonably expect the strongest efforts of that kind the next spring, even before recruits may arrive here from New England.

I am, with great regard, honorable sir,

Your most humble servant,

Louisbourg, Sept. 13th, 1745.

WM. PEPPERELL.

The man [who] deserted out of Capt. Champling's company, is one Joseph Story, whom I hope you will secure, and send here; otherwise, it may be a great encouragement for others to desert.

I am this day informed, that one John Wood, who deserted from Boston, out of Capt. Chaplin's company, and sent here by Capt. Thomas Burden, never was landed here, but carried off by said Burden. I hope you will call him to account for this, otherwise, this place may be lost by such vile actions.

W. P.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.



*Admiral Warren to Governor Wanton.*

Louisbourg, September 13, 1745.

Sir:—I have the honor of your favor of the 23d August, informing me of your having laid before the Assembly of your colony, my letters, with the copy of His Majesty's order, by His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, to the respective governors of the colonies in North America, to assist me with men, provisions and shipping for the relief of any of His Majesty's settlements, or for making any attempts upon those of the enemy's.

Human prudence could not have formed a more advantageous expedition, for the good of the British colonies in particular, nor for our country's interest in general than this; the great merit of which, I must in justice attribute to the indefatigable pains taken by Governor Shirley, who concerted and carried this great design into a thorough and most successful execution, with the assistance of a very few of the colonies, and a squadron of His Majesty's ships, which must be by latest posterity thought of with the highest gratitude and honor, of those who contrived, assisted and executed so glorious an expedition; upon the success of which, the ease and happiness of us and our descendants does in a very great measure depend.

You see, sir, I speak here, as an American, and a well wisher to the colonies; and am therefore really sorry, the particular one I mean, New York, to which I am nearest related, has not had a greater share in this great acquisition; for it's a mistaken notion in any of the colonies, if they think they are not greatly interested, even the remotest of them, in the reduction and support of this conquest, which will quiet them all in their religious and civil rights and liberties, to latest times, against a designing, encroaching, and powerful enemy, and increase our trade in the fish, fur, and many other valuable branches, to such an advantageous degree to the colonies, and our mother country, as must ever induce them to be extremely grateful to those who have opened so fair a channel for the increase of wealth and power.

I have now tired your patience with my inaccurate manner of letting you into the importance of this acquisition to His Majesty's dominion, which will no doubt be on the other hand looked upon by our enemies, as the greatest loss they could have sustained; and there is, therefore, the greatest room to believe they will use all their efforts to regain it, and that as soon as possible; and may be before His Majesty can, under the many difficulties he labors at home in, [in] a war against two powerful nations, and especially so late in the season, take the protection of it upon himself.

It will therefore be of the highest consequence, and will greatly endear all his American subjects concerned in this affair to His Majesty, if animated with the same zeal with which they gloriously undertook to reduce this conquest to his obedience, they support it till his royal pleasure shall be known; when, I make no doubt, the heavy expense that has attended the colonies upon this occasion, will, to a shilling, be reimbursed. These are all circumstances, that in my weak apprehension, are worthy of your, and your legislature's most serious attention.

As to the number of your troops, that you imagine will be necessary, as your quota for the support of this garrison, I beg leave to refer that to Governor Shirley, as the better judge, who informs me he will write to you on that head.

I hope you will do me the honor to return my hearty thanks to your Assembly for

their kind expressions, and good opinion of me, and assure them nothing shall be wanting that may ever be within the compass of my power, or poor capacity for their service, and that of the colonies in general, but in particular those most concerned in the reduction of this strong fortress, which must plainly convince His Majesty, and all the people of Great Britain, of their love and loyalty.

That you and your legislature may ever act consistently with the general interest of our mother country, and that of your own, and all her colonies, which I look upon as inseparable, is the sincerest wish of,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.

P. WARREN.

As I expect to leave these seas ere long, you'll please to address for the return of Capt. Fones, and on any future service, to the commanding officer of this garrison. Its greatest danger, I apprehend, will be from the latter end of February, till May or June; and to be sure till that time, or till succors arrive from England, the colonies should not keep less than four or five thousand men to support it.

I am yours, as before,

P. WARREN.

*Governor Wanton, to the Agent of Rhode Island, in London.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, Xber 20th, 1745.

Sir:—The conduct of this colony relating to the Cape Breton expedition, having been, as your letters advise, very unjustly misrepresented at home, with a view to prejudice the ministry against us, the General Assembly have directed that a true account thereof should be transmitted to you, which we doubt not, will enable you fully to vindicate our colony, which hath always distinguished itself by joining with readiness and zeal in all expeditions ordered by the crown.

The reduction of Louisbourg, we always thought would be of very great importance, as well to the trade and commerce of Great Britain, as of the northern plantations, and therefore expected and hoped it would be undertaken at home in the course of the war; but we judged the attempt to reduce that prodigiously strong town, regularly fortified, and furnished with a garrison of regular forces, to be much too hazardous, as well as too expensive for New England, as not having one officer of experience, or even an engineer; and the people being entirely ignorant in the art of encamping and besieging towns, and were therefore greatly surprised at hearing that the Province of the Massachusetts had voted to make said attempt.

At first, while it was supposed that Governor Shirley had secret instructions to raise men, and an assurance of a sufficient addition of sea and land forces from Great Britain, our people were zealous in the affair; but when it was known that he had no orders at all, not so much as a discretionary power to stop some of His Majesty's ships then at Boston, a thing of the last importance to the blocking up the harbor of Louisbourg, no assurance that the ministry would approve of the undertaking, or make any provision to support it, or that the state of affairs in Europe would permit the sending such a force from Great Britain, as seemed necessary, to render the expedition successful, surely, 'tis no wonder that our zeal abated, and that we were not very forward to precipitate an attempt, in which a failure must needs have been of fatal consequence, as it would have exposed the weakness of the northern plantations, and disabled them from assisting, if the crown should think fit to order such an expedition; that the Massachusetts themselves were very doubtful of

success, cannot be denied, for the undertaking of the expedition was carried but by one single voice, in their house of representatives.

When they first applied to us for assistance, the colony had anticipated all their funds, to defray the charge of the fatal expedition against Carthagena; the tax for putting the colony in a posture of defence, was unpaid, the people burthened with the expense of defending our charter privileges and carrying on the suit about our boundaries, and the bill depending in Parliament about paper currency of such a nature, as made it hazardous to emit at this juncture any large sums: and also the colony was then drained of men to an uncommon degree; of two hundred and fifty sent away in the West India expedition, not twenty had returned; we had lost many in our privateers, and had eight or ten sail then cruising; so that it was not practicable to raise such a number as was desired; besides, we had not the same dependence upon, and expectation of advantages from the fishery as the Massachusetts and New Hampshire had, which undoubtedly was a main inducement to their people to list so cheerfully as they did.

But notwithstanding all this, the General Assembly voted to send our colony sloop, well manned, permitted the Governor of Boston to endeavor to raise men in the pay of the Province, and voted an additional bounty of forty shillings a man to induce them to list, but to no effect.

On further application to us, in March last, the General Assembly voted to raise three companies, of fifty men each, exclusive of officers; and offered as large pay, and a higher bounty than the Province of the Massachusetts had given; but it being found impracticable to fill the companies in season, the then Governor, after we had been at a considerable expense, ordered the men that were raised, to be disbanded. However, our colony's sloop, mounting fourteen carriage and twelve swivel guns, well fitted and manned, convoyed the Connecticut forces, and proved of singular service, by preventing their entire ruin from a French two-and-thirty gun ship; and afterwards in the Gut of Canso, by repelling, in conjunction with two other cruisers, a large body of French and Indians, who were going to the relief of Louisbourg.

Some merchants and other inhabitants of this town, subscribed about £7,000 towards the pay of a privateer, manned, and in part owned here; but the greater part of said sum being still to pay, and it being probable that the whole never will be paid, the subscription being a private one, not countenanced by any authority, we lay no great stress on that particular.

In May, we had advice that the ministry approved of the expedition, and that Commodore Warren was arrived off Louisbourg with a squadron of His Majesty's ships. The General Assembly did then renew their vote to raise three companies; and that it might be effectual, increased the bounty, and raised the pay to £10 per month a man, double of what the Massachusetts allowed theirs. But to complete said companies, [we] were notwithstanding obliged to order that men should be impressed into the service, as several actually were; a thing not done by order of Assembly, in any other part of New England, and scarce ever practiced here before; and on notice that seamen were wanted to man the ship *Vigilant*, voted to raise two hundred, allowing a bounty of £17 to a man. But such was the scarcity of men, that though the bounty was so large, and the most effectual means used, (for we had again recourse to impressing, and allowed said bounty even to the impressed men,) that we could raise only about seventy. The good news of the surrender of Louisbourg, had reached Boston before our transports sailed from thence, having lain

there some days for convoy; yet they proceeded [on] the voyage, and are now in garrison; and we have lately sent a vessel to Louisbourg, with clothing and provisions sufficient for their support, till late in the spring.

This is the assistance we have given, which was really the utmost we were able to give, the colony having never exerted itself with more zeal and vigor on any occasion; and it ought to be observed, that no other of the neighboring governments, besides Connecticut and New Hampshire, could be induced, at the first, to give any assistance at all; nor afterwards, of all of them together, to give so much and such effectual assistance, as this little colony cheerfully afforded, at the hazard of leaving our sea coast unguarded, and our navigation exposed to the enemy's privateers, from the beginning of April to the latter end of October, during which time, our colony's sloop was in the service.

We herewith enclose the several acts of Assembly,\* whereby you will be acquainted with our whole proceedings in this affair; and you may make use of them as you shall think necessary, to set the conduct of the colony in a true light; we also send you two original letters, one from General Pepperell, the other from Commodore Warren, directed to the Governor, wherein you will find their acknowledgments of receiving the three companies of land forces, and the seamen for manning the *Vigilant*. The commodore particularly mentions our colony's sloop being serviceable; but for full proof of the great and extraordinary assistance she has given, we refer you to the enclosed certificate, signed by Major General Wolcott; so you have vouchers from the three principal commanding officers in the expedition, which fully and clearly prove the absolute falsehood of that aspersion cast on us by our enemies, viz.: that we afforded no assistance in the undertaking.

When our conduct is truly represented, and the smallness of our colony considered, being not a fourth part so large as Connecticut, we are persuaded all impartial judges must allow that we have contributed our full quota; but at the same time, we cannot but think, that if we had afforded no assistance at all, we could not therefore have justly been deemed disloyal, inasmuch as we had no orders from His Majesty relating to this expedition, those signified by the Duke of Newcastle, to assist Commodore Warren, not being received till the 12th of July.

And 'tis really surprising, that this colony, which thus generously assisted the Massachusetts in gaining and securing this important conquest, should not escape their unjust censures and aspersions, when they are so sparing of their reflections on the neighboring governments, namely, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which gave them little or no assistance, though they were as much exposed to the privateers from Cape Breton as we, and will reap the same advantages by the reduction of it. This makes it evident, that our avowed enemies, the Massachusetts, are for catching at every shadow of advantage, whereby they imagine they may prejudice us, and gain their point, concerning the boundaries; but surely, 'tis no recommendation of a cause, that it stands in need of calumny and slander for its support.

As to the complaint of our harboring and countenancing deserters from His Majesty's ships, we say that the charge is absolutely false and injurious; we challenge our adversaries to prove any one instance of it; on the contrary, we have at all times shown the utmost respect to the captains of His Majesty's ships, when they

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\* The acts are printed at length in these Records, or will be found in the public laws, for 1747.

have put into this port, and have been always ready to assist them in the apprehending deserters, and furnishing them with every thing in our power, for the service of His Majesty.

We agree with you, in the opinion, that when the Parliament meets, the expense of this expedition, or great part of it, will be paid by the nation, if authentic accounts thereof, are sent over, and proper application made; and for that purpose, herewith transmit to you the accounts of what expense this colony has been at, in the most complete manner we can at present; but as our forces are not yet returned, but still remain at Louisbourg, in our pay, we cannot tell what further expense we shall be at.

We make no doubt of your zeal, not only in vindicating the colony against the aspersions of our enemies, but also in making proper application for obtaining the reimbursement of what we have expended in this expedition, in the same manner as shall be granted to the other governments concerned therein. And if the accounts we now send, should want any further explanations or vouchers, we expect you will immediately give us notice thereof, that we may furnish you with every thing necessary to render them authentic.

I am, &c., &c.,

GIDEON WANTON.

To Mr. Richard Partridge, merchant, in London.

P. S. Please to observe that we have made no charge of arms or beds for our soldiers; both those articles being to be returned after the service is over. We could not come at an absolute certainty, about the pay of our forces. You will see we have charged for three full companies for six months, which, though it is not strictly true, one of our captains, and several of the soldiers having died at Louisbourg, before they had been so long in the service, and our three companies reduced to two, by act of Assembly; yet, we apprehend that the sum carried out, is not too large, and that there will be, at least, so much due to our forces before they are dismissed.

*Admiral Sir Peter Warren, to Governor Wanton.*

Louisbourg, November 26th, 1745.

Sir:—His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, having, by his letter of the 10th August, signified to me, that their Excellencies, the Lords Justices, had been pleased to recommend me to His Majesty, (then at Hanover), to be appointed governor of Louisbourg, and that I may expect my commission for that purpose, by the next opportunity; therefore, as this garrison is much weakened by the return home of several of the New England forces, and by sickness, which is common to all towns that have been for any time besieged, though otherwise very healthy, as is the case of this, by all accounts.

And as His Majesty has shown the highest satisfaction in the reduction of this important garrison to his obedience, by his American subjects, in conjunction with a squadron of his ships; so he has manifested his royal intention to protect it against any attempts that may be made by the French to recover it, by ordering immediately two regiments from Gibraltar, under a strong convoy, and several ordnance and other store ships, from England, with all manner of necessaries proper for the support of the troops and garrison; all which, may be daily expected here, if the

season should not prevent them. In such case, 'tis probable they may winter in the West Indies, where those regiments may be disabled by sickness and other disasters, and possibly not arrive so early in the spring as to prevent any attempt upon us by the enemy, who, I am credibly informed, are at this time in motion, at Canada, with a design to attack us this winter, or very early in the spring.

Therefore, in order to frustrate all their designs, and do every thing that human prudence can suggest, for the security of this important acquisition, I hope, upon this my representation, the same laudable zeal which animated you and your legislature to undertake this expedition, will induce you to take all proper measures to preserve an acquisition of such consequence to our country in general, and all the colonies in particular.

The properest method I can think of, to support it, is immediately to raise in your government as many men as you can, to be here [by] the beginning of March, at farthest, provided with a quota of provisions for their own support, for two or three months, lest by any means we should be shortened here.

Any expense that you may be at upon upon this occasion, or any other, for the support of this garrison, I apprehend it in the power of General Pepperell and me, to defray, by bills of exchange upon the government at home; and that you may be the clearer in this my apprehension, I send you the paragraph of His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle's letter, that empowers us to draw for the expenses of this garrison. Whatever terms you shall make with such men as you raise for this service, shall be punctually observed and complied with, whether they choose to serve the King for any limited time in the American forces, (of whom His Majesty has it under his royal consideration to establish one or more regiments, for the encouragement of the officers and men that have, or shall distinguish themselves,) or return, or choose to stay as inhabitants, and settle here, upon such encouragement as, by His Majesty's instructions, I shall be hereafter be empowered to give.

I am sorry that the terms of Governor Shirley's proclamation upon the first enlistment of the soldiers for this expedition, could not be complied with, in the sense in which many (I don't say with what color of reason,) have [construed] them. The only way to have obviated this subject of complaint would have been (as His Majesty could not immediately take this place under his own protection,) to have raised and sent a fresh body of men, to have relieved such of the troops as had an inclination to return home.

The disappointment the trading people have met with here, has given no one more uneasiness than myself. When the government is put upon a regular footing, a free port opened, and a civil government established, as I imagine the case will be, (having recommended it in the strongest manner,) the traffic that may be carried on here, must be of very considerable advantage to the neighboring colonies.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, upon the happy success Governor Clinton, and the other commissioners have had in their negotiations with the Six Nations.

Governor Shirley and I have sent some captive Indians, to consult with those of Nova Scotia, upon the terms of a peace which they themselves have proposed. I dare hope this step will have a good effect, especially as I have the assurances of the Duke of Newcastle, that proper presents may be expected from England, for those people.

I cannot conclude without observing, that it appears to me to be of the greatest moment towards securing, and rendering this acquisition most extensively useful to

His Majesty's subjects, that the gentleman with whom the government of this garrison is entrusted, should (at least during the war, or till the country is well peopled,) be an officer who has the command at sea, who would by that means always be sure of men, as well as shipping and materials requisite to annoy the enemy in their navigation to Canada; and I flatter myself it is no unfortunate event for this place, or the colonies in general, (whose interest I have greatly at heart,) that I am (at this critical juncture,) appointed to act in both those stations; though that of governor is so disagreeable to me, that I shall use all my endeavors to be relieved as soon as possible.

You will do me the justice to believe that my zealous attachment to the interests of His Majesty, and his American provinces, would alone induce me to promote, to the utmost of my abilities, everything I judged conducive thereto; be pleased, nevertheless, to observe, that I am authorized in the fullest manner, by His Grace<sup>s</sup> the Duke of Newcastle's circular letter, which I formerly sent you, dated at Whitehall, January 3d, 1744-5, to make this application to you.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

P. WARREN.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.

*Sir Peter Warren and Gen. Sir Wm. Pepperell to Governor Wanton, of Rhode Island.*

Louisbourg, January 25th, 1745-6.

Sir:—By letters from the Duke of Newcastle, of the 10th of August last, we were advised that His Majesty was determined forthwith to provide for the effectual support of this valuable acquisition; and that, in order thereto, two regiments were ordered here from Gibraltar, and several vessels with stores, from England; but none of them are yet arrived here, and we apprehend it probable that the troops are not yet embarked; and as it must be expected that the enemy will make the earliest and most vigorous efforts possible, to regain this important fortress next spring, we may probably be blocked up before those troops can gain their passage from Gibraltar hither; and as a mortal sickness (chiefly a fever) has for some time past prevailed in the garrison, and has carried off considerable numbers, and still continues to do so, (though we hope it is abating,) our duty to His Majesty requires us to acquaint you (as the protection of this acquisition for the present, and till Mr. Warren's commission for the government, which is daily expected, arrives, is recommended to our joint care,) that it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's service, as well as the honor and interest of the colonies, that new levies of men be raised there, for the support of this garrison, until a sufficient number of British troops shall arrive here.

We have, by an express, who sailed the 23d instant, for England, to inform the ministry of the circumstances of this garrison, acquainted them that we should make application to you and the other governments in the colonies, for the necessary assistance herein.

And we cannot doubt but that your loyalty and zeal for His Majesty's service, and the interest of your own and neighboring governments, will prompt you to use your utmost endeavors (as you have already shown your readiness to contribute to the security as well as conquest of this place,) that a proper quota of troops from

your government, be accordingly sent here as early in the spring as the season will possibly admit of, (which may be the beginning of March,) sufficient not only to sustain the place against any attack of an enemy, but also to relieve the troops now here, who have (most of them) undergone the fatigues of the siege, as well as the duty of protecting the place since, and who justly expect to be relieved, and allowed to return home in the spring, agreeably to the terms upon which they first enlisted.

If no British troops arrive, (which may be the case,) four, or at least three thousand men, will be necessary to be raised for the defence of this place next year; and as the garrison is already much weakened by the sickness and mortality among us, and may possibly be much more so, we must press your most speedy and vigorous endeavors to assist in reinforcing it, before the arrival of an enemy's force shall render it hazardous or impracticable; as a neglect herein, may prove of the most fatal consequence, and justly render those, at whose door the fault shall lie, highly obnoxious to His Majesty's displeasure.

You may, sir, assure such levies as shall be raised for this purpose, that they shall not be detained here contrary to their will, after the arrival of a British force sufficient for the security of the place; and that they may depend upon the strictest justice, and all the good offices in our power; and we make no doubt but great encouragement will be given to them and others to settle this island.

We have lately had the disagreeable news of one of the store ships bound to this place, being cast away, and entirely lost on this island, on the 27th of December last. By three seamen, who were the only persons saved of twenty-four on board, we learn that she sailed from England about the last of October, in company with several other ships, bound here with stores, under convoy of the Kinsale man-of-war, and lost company with them near the Banks of Newfoundland, about three weeks before their disaster; since which we have heard of nothing of the others, nor any further account of the troops we had reason to expect from Gibraltar.

We are, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants.

P. WARREN,  
WM. PEPPERELL.

[Sir William Pepperell, was an American merchant, living in the state of Maine. About the year 1727, he was chosen a member of His Majesty's council, of the Province of Massachusetts, to which place he was annually elected until his death, a period of thirty-two years. Possessing a vigorous frame, firm mind, and great coolness when in danger, he was admirably adapted for a residence in a country exposed to a ferocious enemy, and soon attained the rank of colonel. He commanded the expedition against Louisburg, at the time it capitulated. After this brilliant achievement, he went to England, where he received a first colonency, in the army; in 1755, the rank of Major General; and two years after that, of Lieut. General. He was also rewarded with the dignity of baronet, the thanks of the ministry, and a peculiar token of respect from the royal family. Portraits of Sir William and his wife, are preserved at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and at Salem, Massachusetts. He died at his residence, near Portsmouth, June 6, 1759, at the age of sixty-three years. Sir William was succeeded by his grandson, William H. Sparhawk, who assumed his name, and was created a baronet. He was a loyalist during the Revolution, and died in London, December 17, 1816, when the title became extinct.—J. R. B.]



*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday of October, 1745.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for the regulation of the soldiers that remain alive at Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton, and appointing a commissary for the care of the provisions, and other necessaries, for their subsistence.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the soldiers remaining alive, belonging to the company lately commanded by Capt. Joshua Champlin, at the island of Cape Breton, be added to the other two companies in the service of this colony; and that the officers of said company be allowed half pay till further orders from the General Assembly; provided, that they stay there.

And that a commissary be appointed for the forces there, in the service of this colony, who shall keep an exact account of what provisions he shall receive and deliver out; and for said service shall be allowed £18 per month; and for the due performance of his office, shall give bond, with sureties, to the general treasurer, in the full value of the provisions he shall receive.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the paragraph of an act passed by the General Assembly, at their session held on the fourth Tuesday in September last past, directing the provisions to be delivered to the captains or commanding officers, for the time being, of each of the aforesaid companies, to be by them distributed and given out to the

men belonging thereto, be repealed, and it is hereby repealed ; the same being the proper business of the commissary.

And that His Honor, the Governor, write to Capt. Daniel Fones, commander of the colony sloop Tartar, at the island of Cape Breton, and order him with said sloop and company, to return home to Newport, as soon as may be.

Voted and resolved, that Benjamin Hassard, Esq., Messrs, Peter Bours, Samuel Wickham, Robert Hassard and Edward Scott, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to take into consideration the agent's letters now presented to this Assembly, and to furnish him with proper instructions relating to the matters therein contained, and to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent home as soon as conveniently may be ; and a copy thereof to be laid before this Assembly, at their next session ; and that His Honor, the Governor, send home, with said instructions, such original letters or copies thereof, as he shall think proper.

Voted and resolved, that the committee that was appointed to procure a plan of Fort George and the harbor of Newport, procure another draught or plan of said fort and harbor, exactly as the same now are, and present the same to His Honor, the Governor, to be signed by him and the surveyor, to be sent home, with the plan already drawn, in order to show the present circumstances of said fort and harbor, as well as what alteration is proposed to be made ; and that the said committee procure a piece of plate, to the value of £75, and present the same to Mr. Peter Harrison, for his trouble in surveying and making a draught of said fort and harbor, and draw money out of the general treasury, to pay for the same.

Voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to wait upon the Hon. Roger Wolcott, Esq., deputy governor of the colony of Connecticut, and major general of the forces that reduced Cape Breton, and request of him a certificate of what he knows respecting the conduct of this colony, relating to the expedition against Cape Breton, and more especially as to the service that our colony sloop has been in said expedition.

[It appears that complaints against Rhode Island were made to the King, for the backwardness of the latter, in sending assistance to the expedition, against Cape Breton. This fact was made known to Richard Partridge, the agent of Rhode Island, in London, by Mr. Ramsden, secretary to the Lords Justices, who at once took measures to refute the calumny, by addressing an official note to the secretary, dated the 5th month 30th, 1745, to be communicated by him to the Duke of Newcastle. In this, he says, that "although there are disputes depending between the government of Rhode Island, (which is but a small colony,) and that of the great province of the Massachusetts; and that said colony had no orders about the said expedition from Great Britain, and consequently it could be no disobedience or disrespect in them to the crown; yet it is notorious and apparent, that there was an armed sloop of war belonging to Rhode Island, at Cape Breton, with our ships, when that place was taken," etc. He also states, that men were sent, "that the merchants of Rhode Island advanced £8,000 amongst themselves, and hired a twenty-gun ship to be employed in that service." And in alluding to the people of Rhode Island, says:

"Their loyalty and obedience to the crown heretofore, is well known; for that whenever there has been any expedition ordered from Great Britain, to be executed in North America, the Rhode Islanders have always paid due obedience to the crown, and afforded their quotas; particularly in the wars of the late Queen, in the expedition against Annapolis Royal, and against Canada; and that in the sea war at that time, the New Englanders must confess that the privateers from this colony of Rhode Island, did more execution against the enemy's privateers that infested their coasts, than all the ships of the Massachusetts, or indeed of all the colonies in those parts put together."

The agent, Mr. Partridge, under date of 5mo. 23d, 1745, communicated these same facts to Governor Wanton, and apprises him that he had written to the clerk of the council about the matter, "which he seemed to take well, and reckoned necessary;" and adds, "I wish thou couldst get a few lines from Capt. Warren, and send me a justification of the colony, to take off the edge of those assertions, which I believe have been spread by Agent Shelby, here; and perhaps, too, the Boston people may have falsely prepossessed Capt. Warren, to make him write home as he did, (if he wrote any thing at all about it.) This I looked upon as my duty, to advertise thee of it in time, that I may receive thy answer, with a full vindication."

Under date of 6mo. 8th, (August,) the agent again writes to Gov. Wanton, and reiterates what he had before stated. "The rejoicings in England," he says, "were great, when the news of the taking of Louisbourg was confirmed; the town guns were fired, and the acquisition of Cape Breton was considered as of vast importance." At the same time he urged the importance of Rhode Island sending provisions to the forces there. The reception of these letters by Governor Wanton drew forth the resolution referred to, above, together with the following letter and certificate from Governor Wolcott, a major general in the Louisburg expedition.]

*Certificate of Governor Wolcott, relative to the expedition against  
Cape Breton.*

Colony of Connecticut, Windsor ss.

Whereas, the General Assembly of His Majesty's colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, have represented to me, the subscriber, the Deputy Governor of the colony of Connecticut, and major general of the land forces employed in the late expedition against Cape Breton, that their conduct relating to the reduction of that place, hath been misrepresented to the British court, and therefore have applied to me, to declare what I know, relating to the assistance that has been given by their colony; and that justice may be done to that government, according to truth, I certify as follows, viz.:

That the colony of Rhode Island fitted out for the expedition against Cape Breton, their guard sloop, the Tartar, under the command of Capt. Daniel Fones, mounting fourteen carriage and twelve swivel guns; furnished with needful warlike stores, with ninety men on board.

That the colony of Connecticut fitted out their guard sloop, the Defence, under the command of Capt. John Prentice, mounting twelve carriage and twelve swivel guns, furnished with warlike stores, and an hundred men on board.

That when the forces from Connecticut were near ready to embark, at New London, it was feared that Capt. Prentice would not be a sufficient guard for our transports; and thereupon, from a motion from the Governor of Connecticut, to the Governor of Rhode Island, Capt. Fones was sent to New London, to join Capt. Prentice, to convoy our forces to Cape Breton.

That our fleet, consisting of the two guard sloops, and seven transports, having received on board five hundred men, sent from Connecticut, for the land service, went on our voyage, and off the Cape Sable shore we espied a ship making towards us; and not knowing what she might be, the Tartar went out to speak with her; and upon exchange of some shot, she was found to be a French ship of war, of about thirty-four guns. Capt. Fones perceiving her to be a vessel of great superiority, led her off from the fleet. She proved to be a very nimble ship; but the Tartar being a prime sailor, and hauling close to the wind, kept her in chase of her all day, and got clear of her at night; so our fleet, without any damage from said French ship, arrived safe at Canso. If this ship had engaged our fleet, it is probable that both the guard sloops would not have been able to withstand her; and if we had had no convoy but Capt. Prentice, it is likely that we should have been ruined by her.

That during the siege, Capt. Fones, Capt. Becket and Capt. Donahue were sent to the Gut of Canso, to prevent the enemy that we expected were coming from the siege of Annapolis, to the relief of Louisburg; accordingly, they met them, and repelled a great number of them; and this, we judged, was the reason that we did not meet them on the island of Cape Breton.

In testimony of the truth of all the above written, I have hereunto set my hand, at Windsor, in said colony of Connecticut, the 15th day of November, Anno Domini 1745.

ROGEE WOLCOTT

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build a bridge over Weybosset river, at Providence, in the county of Providence, do not proceed on said business till further orders from the General Assembly.

God save the King.

[The following public laws, passed during the year 1745, are printed at length in the volume of laws published in 1747, unless repealed previous to that time.]

- An Act for the regulation of the sitting of the General Assembly.
- An Act for the more regular appointing of deputy sheriffs.
- An Act for regulating the service of writs in case where the sheriff and town sergeant of such town where the sheriff liveth, are concerned.
- An Act for allowing thirty men at Fort George, etc.
- An Act enabling creditors to recover their just debts of such persons who have removed out of this colony, and of others, not inhabitants thereof, or who conceal themselves therein.
- An Act for allowing of taking depositions, and regulating the swearing to accounts out of court.
- An Act for impounding cattle, sheep, horses and hogs; and for recovering damages done by them.
- An Act for the protection of the members of the General Assembly; and of persons chosen to serve on the jury, from being arrested or sued during service.
- An Act appointing commissioners to take care of all prisoners of war that shall be brought to this colony.
- An Act for the better security of the sheriff, any of his under officers or aids, in impressing men for His Majesty's service.
- An Act for limiting the exportation of gunpowder for a certain time, therein mentioned.
- An Act allowing George Ninnegret, the Indian sachem, (with the advice and consent of his trustees,) to exchange twenty acres of land in Charlestown, for the benefit of the Church of England, in that town.
- An Act empowering George Ninnegret, the Indian sachem, to sell a part of his land for the payment of his debts, and the better support of his family.
- An Act for the relief of poor and distressed debtors.
- An Act empowering the captains of the several companies of trained bands in this colony, to grant warrants for collecting the fines of delinquents, etc.
- An Act ordering and appointing the militia, or trained bands in this colony, to muster but twice a year.
- An Act directing how tenth bonds shall be given for money taken up by persons dying without giving any.
- An Act in addition to, and in amendment of the several acts relating to the choosing of jurymen.
- An Act for the regulating the mending of highways, within this colony.
- An Act for the further regulating vendues, within this colony.
- An Act in addition to an act, granting writs of review in personal actions.

An Act in addition to an act, establishing the proceedings of actions not exceeding £5.

An Act empowering one of the grand committee to have the care of the colony's bonds and mortgages, etc.

An Act directing the sheriffs the manner of disposing of the real estate of deceased persons, for the payment of their debts.

An Act directing how the money raised for the building a bridge at Weybosset, in Providence, shall be disposed of, and for supporting said bridge.

An Act empowering the overseers of the poor, in Newport, to commit persons to the work house.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the 10th day of February, 1745-46.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that a fair copy of the draught of a letter presented to this General Assembly, be made, and signed by His Honor, the Governor, and by him sent to His Excellency, George Clinton, Esq., Governor of the Province of New York, in answer to his letter for appointing commissioners to meet and consult about the French and Indian enemies on the frontiers.

Whereas, Benjamin Hassard, Esq., Messrs. Peter Bours, Samuel Wickham, Robert Hassard and Edward Scott, were at the last session of this Assembly, appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to take into consideration the agent's letters then presented to the General Assembly, and to furnish him with proper instructions relating to the matters therein contained, and to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent home as soon as conveniently might be, did now report ;—

That they had extracted from the records, copies of all the acts of the General Assembly, relating to the expedition, which they judged might be necessary, to

prove the assistance given by this government to said expedition; and that they had likewise stated a general account of the charges this colony has been at in said expedition, and accounts of all the particulars contained in each article of the general account; and attested by the commissary, and put under the colony seal, with the copies of the acts of this Assembly, and with an original letter from Gen. Pepperell, and another from Admiral Warren, and a certificate from Major General Wolcott, with an original letter to the agent, delivered to His Honor, the Governor to transmit them to the agent; which they thought sufficient to show the zeal of this government in the expedition, and for the agent to obtain a reimbursement of the money the colony has expended therein; provided, the nation defrays the charges the neighboring governments have been at on this occasion, and now presented a copy of said letter and accounts.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

Voted, that His Honor, the Governor, write to the Honorable Peter Warren, Esq., commander-in-chief of His Majesty's ships of war, at Louisbourg, in answer to his letter, of the 26th of November, A. D. 1745, respecting a quota of men for the garrison at Louisbourg, aforesaid; and also, that His Honor write to Messrs. William Smith and Edward Cole, the captains of the two companies in the pay of this colony, at Louisbourg, aforesaid, in answer to their letter of the 29th day of said November, respecting their soldiers.

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build the colony house, proceed forthwith, and finish the middle room in the chamber, and the stair cases as soon as may be conveniently.

Voted and resolved, that the captain of Fort George, be, and he is hereby appointed to employ a proper person or persons and make such repairs at said fort, as are necessary at present.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to the Hon. Roger Wolcott, Esq., Deputy Governor of the colony of Connecticut, and thank him, in behalf of this colony, for the just service he has done the government in giving a certificate of what he knows relating to the assistance this colony has given in the expedition against Cape Breton.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session, in October last past, appointed Peter Bours, Esq., to wait on the Honora-

ble Roger Wolcott, Esq., Deputy Governor of the colony of Connecticut, and major general of the forces that reduced Cape Breton, and request of him a certificate of what he knows respecting the conduct of this colony relating to the expedition against Cape Breton, who now reported ;—

That he had waited on the said Roger Wolcott, Esq., and obtained from him three certificates of the same tenor and date, of what he knows relating to the premises, aforesaid ; one of which, he presented to this Assembly, and at the same time, also presented the account of his time and expenses about said affair, amounting to the sum of £27 10s.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted ; and that the said sum of £27 10s., be allowed, and paid to the said Peter Bours, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the two accounts of Col. Peter Mawney, amounting to £16 17s., for calling the several companies together, in the county of Providence, in the months of March and June last past, in order to enlist soldiers for the expedition against Cape Breton, be allowed, and paid by the commissary of this colony.

Voted and resolved, that the account of Messrs. Peter Mawney, Jabez Bowen and James Arnold, field officers, in the county of Providence, amounting to £32 18s., for the calling together the companies in the county of Providence, in the year 1741, in order to raise recruits for the West Indies, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury.

Whereas, David Greene, of Jamestown, in the county of Newport, yeoman, by petition, set forth to this Assembly, that he hath on the east side of Jamestown, a good dwelling house for the accommodating travellers, and a good wharf for landing passengers at, and for laying a boat, which is also situated in a proper place for the public benefit of all persons going to, and coming from said town of Newport, from the other part of the government ; and it being easily perceived, as well as known by long experience, that it is a great advantage to the public to pass and repass easily over the ferries to, and from the town of Newport, and that difficulty and delay in that case



is a general disadvantage to town and country, and not doubting but this Honorable Assembly is of the opinion that the allowing the petitioner the liberty of setting up a ferry at said place for the transporting passengers (and what they carry with them in travelling,) to and from Newport, will be for the benefit and advantage of the said town of Newport, and the country, in general; and therefore humbly prayed, that he might have the liberty of setting up a ferry from said Jamestown to Newport, as aforesaid, upon the same terms as are stated, to commence from the 1st day of March A. D. 1746; and that he, in the meantime, will provide himself with a good and sufficient ferry boat for the purpose, and complete his conveniency of keeping his boat so as to be equal to any place in the government, which he apprehends the place will admit of; and that he is willing, and expects to be laid under the same restrictions as hath been usual, and is established by law;—

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and enacted, that the said David Greene, be, and he is hereby permitted and allowed to set up a ferry from said Jamestown, to Newport, aforesaid, for transportation of persons and such things as they have with them, upon the same terms, and under the same restrictions as the other ferry from said Jamestown to Newport is established, and to begin at the expiration of Mr. Samuel Clarke's present lease of said other ferry.

Whereas, the proprietors of the Long Wharf, in Newport, in the county of Newport, &c., by petition set forth to this Assembly, that they have, at a vast expense, built a wharf in said Newport, leading directly up to the colony house, and the market house, in said town, and near about the middle of the town, which wharf they apprehend is very commodious for a public ferry, as being most convenient both for those who come to said town, about public business; and also, for those who come to bring their ware to market; and therefore prayed this Honorable Assembly to grant to the said proprietors the privilege of keeping a ferry at said wharf, upon the same terms, and under the same restriction, as the other ferries of said town are granted;—

Upon consideration whereof, be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said proprietors of the Long Wharf, in Newport, be, and they are hereby fully permitted and allowed to set up and keep a ferry from said Long Wharf, in Newport, aforesaid, to Jamestown, for transporting of persons and things, upon the same terms and under the same restrictions as the other two ferries in Newport, aforesaid, are granted; and to commence at the expiration of the present leases of the said other two ferries.

God save the King.

*Letter from the Duke of Newcastle, to Governor Wanton.*

Whitehall, March 14th, 1745-6.

Sir:—His Majesty having determined to omit nothing, that might be necessary for the security, and defence of Louisbourg; and there having been great reason to apprehend that an attempt might be made upon it, by the French, early in the spring, the King was pleased to order two regiments to be sent thither from Gibraltar, which it is hoped, may be arrived there, before this time.

His Majesty has also ordered another regiment to be sent from hence, to Louisbourg; part of which, are now going on board two sixty gun ships, that are ready to sail; and the remainder will proceed to Louisbourg, with the convoy, that will go from hence, in about a fortnight.

Rear Admiral Warren having desired His Majesty's leave to resign the government of Louisbourg, on account of the ill state of his health, His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Commodore Knowles to succeed him; and I am commanded by His Majesty, to recommend it to you, in the strongest manner, that, in case Mr. Knowles should have occasion to apply to you for assistance, for the better maintenance and support of the garrison at Louisbourg, either by raising any number of men, to reinforce that garrison, or in any other manner, that shall be thought proper, you should use your utmost endeavors to furnish him with it.

And as Mr. Warren will have the command of a squadron of His Majesty's ships, in North America, and will have received His Majesty's orders, to concert with Gov. Shirley, whether it may be practicable, to make an attempt upon any other of the French settlements in North America, His Majesty has commanded me to signify to you his pleasure, that in case it shall be judged advisable to undertake any such attempt, and, in order thereto, to raise a body of land forces in North America, you should, in that case, take proper measures for raising such a body of men, within the colony of which you are Governor, as may be practicable, to make part of such force; and to act in such manner, as shall be agreed on.

I need say nothing to persuade you to exert your utmost endeavors in the performance of a service which may be of such great importance to the security of His Majesty's dominions in North America; the safety and protection of which, His Majesty has so much at heart.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

*The Duke of Newcastle, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, April 9, 1746.

Gentlemen:—I am commanded to acquaint you, that His Majesty has been pleased to order five battallions of his troops, under the command of Lieutenant General St. Clair, to go from hence, as soon as possible, with a sufficient convoy of men-of-war, to Louisbourg, in order to be employed together with the regiment of Major General Frampton, which has been some time ordered to embark for Louisbourg, and with the two regiments sent thither from Gibraltar; and also with such troops as shall be levied for that purpose, in North America, for the immediate reduction of Canada.

And I am commanded by His Majesty to signify his pleasure to you, (as I shall do to the other Governors of the said colonies,) that you should forthwith make the necessary dispositions for raising as many men as the shortness of the time will permit, within your government, to be employed in conjunction with His Majesty's regular forces, on this important service. It is to be hoped Lieutenant General St. Clair, will be able to sail from hence, with the troops under his command, the latter end of this month, or the beginning of May.

It is the King's intention that the troops to be raised in North America, should consist of companies of one hundred men each; and that the troops to be raised in Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, should rendezvous at Louisbourg, as soon as possible, in order to proceed under the command of such officer as shall be appointed by Lieut. General St. Clair, and under convoy of His Majesty's fleet, to the river of St. Lawrence, and proceed up the river immediately to Quebec, with such ships of war, sloops, and other armed vessels, to be furnished by the provinces, as Rear Admiral Warren, who will have the command of the squadron to be employed in this expedition, shall appoint.

You will therefore use the utmost expedition in raising as many men as possible, within the Province of Rhode Island, and take the proper measures for their arriving at Louisbourg, before the time Lieut. General St. Clair may be expected there. You will also appoint proper officers to command the men you shall be able to raise; for which purpose, a number of blank commissions will be sent you by the next conveyance; and you will transmit to Rear Admiral Warren, at Louisbourg, accounts, directed to Mr. St. Clair, of what you shall have been able to do herein.

You will assure the troops that shall be raised, as well officers as soldiers, that they will immediately enter into His Majesty's pay; the officers, from the time they shall engage in His Majesty's service, and the soldiers from the respective days on which they shall enlist; and that they shall come in for a share of any booty to be taken from the enemy; and be sent back to their respective habitations, when this service shall be over, unless any of them shall desire to settle elsewhere.

As to the article of arms and clothing for the men to be raised, His Majesty has commanded me to recommend it to you and the other Governors, to take care that the soldiers may be provided with them; and His Majesty has authorized and empowered Lieut. General St. Clair to make a reasonable allowance for defraying that expense.

You will recommend it to the council and Assembly, to provide a sufficient num-

ber of transports to carry the troops to be raised in Rhode Island to Louisbourg, and from thence, up the river of St. Lawrence, and a sufficient quantity of provisions for their subsistence; and also to provide as many armed vessels as can be got, to serve in the expedition, under the command of Rear Admiral Warren.

I am ordered by His Majesty, to recommend it to you, to make the strictest inquiry for any persons that may be acquainted with the navigation of the river of St. Lawrence; and if you can find any such, you will engage them at any rate, to serve as pilots on board His Majesty's fleet; and you will send them as soon as possible, to Louisbourg, for that purpose.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

To the Governor and Company, of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 6th day of May, 1746.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Haszard,

Mr. James Arnold,

Mr. Gideon Cornell,

Capt. William Rice,

Mr. William Rhodes,

Mr. Ephraim Gardner,

Mr. Daniel Howland,

Mr. Jeremiah Niles.

Mr. Gideon Durfey,

Mr. Peter Bours, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following are admitted freemen of the colony :

Of Newport, Constant Bailey, William Heffernan, Jr., Oliver White, Samuel Easton, Jr., John Pont, Jared Caswell, John Warren, son of Joseph; Thomas Creman, George Wanton, Jr., William Woodward, Gindifer Lindie, John Mundon, John Channing, John Pike, David Moore, Randall Eldred, Clark

Brown, Alexander Swan, William Stoddard, James Nichol. John Coddington, son of Nathaniel ; John Chadwick, Samuel Freebody, Jonathan Heath, Daniel Vaughan, Stephen Hookey, Jr., George Shearman, Peter Cozens, James Nixon, Gideon Wanton, Jr., James Hill and Patrick Grant.

Of Providence, Henry Paget, Jeremiah Jenckes, John Mawney, James Brown, John Dexter, Jr., Edward Serle, James Greene, Peter Randall, Job Hawkins, Joshua Turner, Jr., Peter Tift, Jr., Thomas Kinnicut, William Potter, Arthur Fenner, Jr., Jonathan Pike, John Scott, John Scott, Jr., Thomas Olney, son of William ; John Tripp, Joseph Bartlett, Thomas Field, the 3d, Thomas Whipple, Jr., William Alverson, James Hoyle, Stephen Olney, John Alverson, Elisha Arnold, Richard Olney, Christopher Brown and Jonathan Burlingame.

Of Portsmouth, Job Almy and Daniel Howland.

Of Warwick, John Holdon, son of Charles ; Toleration Harris, Edward Casey, Benjamin Greene, son of William ; James Arnold, son of James ; Benjamin Talman, Eleazer Whipple, Thomas Greene, Daniel Fish, Thomas Arnold, Nathaniel Arnold, Israel Arnold, son of Elisha ; Nicholas Battey, Thomas Colegrove, Caleb Arnold, Samuel Remington, Samuel Whitman and Samuel Basset.

Of Westerly, Joseph Pendleton, Jr., John Hill, Ezekiel Burdick, Isaac Babcock, Joseph Hiscox, Thomas Sisson, Jr., Jeremiah Clarke, John McCarter, Reynolds Borden, Ebenezer Burdick, Joseph Sanders, Samuel Champlin, Card Forster, John Worden and James Clarke.

Of New Shoreham, Henry Willis.

Of North Kingstown, Benjamin Watson, Christopher Hall, Nicholas Northup, Jr., Josiah Northup, son of Henry ; Samuel Kingsley, Henry Tibbets, Joseph Jess, Joseph Havens, Job Gardner, Samuel Brown, Edward Gardner, John Hammond and Anthony Dixon.

South Kingstown, William Congdon, son of Joseph ; Paul Niles, George Hassard, son of George, deceased ; Stephen Hassard, Jr., Latham Clarke, Peter Boss, William Smith, Thomas

Gardner, Jeremiah Wilcox, William Browning, Jr., Nicholas Watson, Job Reynolds, Joshua Card, Samuel Barber, Moses Barber, Ebenezer Tift and Samuel Whaley.

Of East Greenwich, Joseph Edwards, Richard Weaver, Wm. Hamilton, Thomas Nichols, son of James ; Joseph Hookey, Francis Hopkins, Samuel Basset, Ebenezer Sweet, Rufus Spencer, Joseph Spencer, Henry Gardner, John Roberts, James Fowler, Thomas Fry, the 3d, John Wall and Josiah Jones.

Of Jamestown, George Franklin, Joseph Battey and John Remington, son of Gershom.

Of Smithfield, Joshua Phillips, Moses Man, John Comstock, Jr., Cornelius Walling, Abraham Scott, Jeremiah Arnold, Jr., Amos Arnold, John Man, Jr., Jonathan Reed, and Winchester Matthewson.

Of Scituate, Eliakim Durfey, Stephen Smith, John Seamans, Anthony Sprague, Jr., Samuel Smith, William Wright, Jonathan Pray, Jonah Hopkins, Charles Hopkins, Samuel Daley, William Seamans, Nicholas Edwards, George Wilbore, William, Edwards, Henry Jones, Samuel Dickens, Goliath Williams, Thomas Lea, Oliver Perkins, Thomas Ailesworth, John Semans, Anthony Sprague, Jr., and Stephen Smith.

Of Gloucester, Zechariah Jenckes, Jeremiah Steare, Jonah Steere, Richard Plummer, Joseph Grover, Benjamin Comings, Samuel Short, Jr., Enos Grover, Nehemiah Bello, Jr., Abraham Smith, John Allen, Isaac Hicks and Peleg Chace.

Of Charlestown, Samuel Irish, Jarith Mumford, David Kenion, Jr., Thomas Potter, Daniel Kenion, Enoch Kenion, Joseph Halloway, Enoch Kezion, Jr., Joseph Kenion, Jr., Robert Austin, John Enos, Jr., John Enos, the 3d, William King, Isaac Stiles and John Hake.

Of West Greenwich, Gideon Elles, Shebna Spink, Thomas Draper, Jr., Harrison Weaver, Benjamin Anderson, and William Reynolds.

Of Coventry, John Wood, John Leston, Isaac Greene and Caleb Greene.

Of Exeter, James Hyams, son of Benjamin ; Job Herring-

ton, Jr., Daniel Barber, Stephen Sweet, Benjamin Lawton, William Wilcox, Caleb Robins and Samuel Codner.

Of Middletown, George Lawton and John Weaver.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday in May, 1746.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Samuel Wickham,  
Mr. Peter Bours,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Capt. George Wanton,  
Mr. Jonathan Nichols,  
Mr. James Sheffield.

*Providence.*

Mr. George Brown,  
Mr. Joseph Sheldon,  
Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
Mr. Henry Harris.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Benjamin Tucker,  
Mr. Jonathan Freeborn,  
Mr. David Anthony,  
Capt. Jeremiah Lawton.

*Warwick.*

Major Joseph Stafford,  
Mr. Charles Holdon,  
Mr. Stephen Low,  
Mr. Samuel Gorton.

*Westerly.*

Mr. William Hern,  
Mr. Silas Greenman.

*New Shoreham.*

Capt. Edward Sands,  
Mr. Nathaniel Littlefield.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. George Tibbetts,  
Mr. Job Tripp.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
Mr. William Potter.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. John Spenser,  
Mr. Thomas Fry, Jr.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Thomas Carr,  
Mr. John Eldred.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Steere,  
Mr. David Comstock.

## DEPUTIES.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. Charles Harris.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere.  
Mr. Walter Phetteplace.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. Richard Barley,  
Mr. Samuel Perry.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Caleb Carr,  
Mr. Thomas Streight.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Robert Greene,  
Mr. Benjamin Nichols.

*Exeter.*

Mr. John Reynolds,  
Mr. Nicholas Gardner.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Robert Nichols,  
Mr. John Taylor.

Mr. Peter Bours, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Col. John Cranston,  
Mr. Abraham Redwood,  
Mr. John Comstock,  
Mr. Robert Gibbs,  
Mr. Stephen Brownell,

• Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. James Arnold,  
Mr. Philip Greene,  
Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. James Martin.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. John Gardner.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

An Act for fitting out the colony sloop Tartar, in order to guard this coast.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and



by the authority of the same, that the colony sloop Tartar be immediately fitted out with a number of men, not exceeding ninety, exclusive of the captain, lieutenants, master, mate, gunner, doctor and captain's clerk; and that the commissary furnish said sloop with a sufficient quantity of warlike stores and provisions, according to law; and that the captain be accountable for said stores; and that said sloop cruise as far eastward as Martha's Vineyard, and as far westward as Sandy Hook; and as far from the land as His Honor, the Governor, shall think necessary, to answer the end of said cruise.

And that she continue cruising till the 1st day of October, and as much longer as His Honor, the Governor, with the advice of his council, shall think necessary; and that in all other respects, not herein particularly mentioned, the act passed in the year 1744, for the fitting out said sloop, &c., be conformed to; and that a bounty of forty shillings be given to each man that shall enlist on board said sloop.

And that His Honor, the Governor, immediately write to His Honor, the Governor of the colony of Connecticut, requesting that their colony sloop may join with the said sloop Tartar, in cruising, agreeably to the above mentioned act.

An Act for the supply of Fort George with thirty soldiers, stating their monthly wages, and weekly allowance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, that the captain of Fort George, as soon as may be, enlist thirty men to serve as soldiers, at said Fort, at the wages of £8 per month, and 15s. per week, board wages, they finding themselves provisions; and that in case a sufficient number of men do not enlist in fifteen days from the date hereof, that the field officers of the county of Newport, by a warrant from His Honor, the Governor, cause so many men as will make up that number, to be impressed within the county of Newport, for that purpose.

An Act appointing commissioners to treat with the commissioners that are, or shall be appointed by the neighboring governments about our mutual defence, against the common enemy.

Whereas, application hath been made to this colony, by the Governors of the Provinces of New York and the Massachusetts Bay, for appointing commissioners to treat with such commissioners as are, or shall be appointed by the neighboring governments, touching our mutual security, defence and conduct during the present war ;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that two commissioners be appointed by this colony ; and that when His Honor, the Governor, shall receive advice from the other governments of the time and place of the intended congress, he immediately direct said commissioners to attend said congress, for the purpose aforesaid, who are to make report of their proceedings, with their opinions thereupon, that such measures may be jointly taken with the several governments as shall be judged most expedient ; and that His Honor, the Governor, advise His Excellency, George Clinton, Esq., Governor of the Province of New York, and His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, of the resolution of this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that the act passed at the session of this Assembly, held in February last, entitled “ An act directing how, and in what manner the money raised for the building a bridge at Weybosset, in Providence, shall be disposed of for supporting said bridge,” be, and it is hereby repealed ; and that the committee appointed to build said bridge, go on and do the same as soon as conveniently may be, not exceeding the charge of £3,000, which is appropriated to that use, and to render an account of their proceedings to the General Assembly, when demanded.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to General Pepperell and Admiral Warren, requesting of them that all the officers and soldiers which were sent to Cape Breton, in the pay of this colony, be discharged immediately ; and that in his letter to Admiral Warren, he particularly request that Messrs. Seth Harvey and Ezekiel Hubbard, with such other seamen as went with them from this colony, to man the ship Vigilant, be also forthwith discharged, (agreeably to the Ad-

miral's promise;) and that His Honor, the Governor, also write to the commanding officers of the two companies, which went to Cape Breton, that they send back to this colony all their soldiers that have not enlisted into the King's service, together with the provisions, goods, small arms and every other article belonging to this colony, by the first opportunity that presents; and that he also notify them of Capt. Jordan's promising to take them in, if there be no opportunity sooner; and that he write to the said Messrs. Harvey and Hubbard, informing them of what he writes the Admiral.

Voted and resolved, that Abraham Redwood, Esq., Messrs. Peter Bours and Stephen Hopkins, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to inquire into the circumstances of a representation made to this General Assembly, relating to some English prisoners now confined at the Havana, and make report thereon to the next session of this Assembly.

And that Capt. John Dennis, commander of the privateer brigantine Defiance, together with the owners of said brigantine, to which vessel the said persons in captivity did belong, be cited to appear at the next session of this Assembly, to answer to the aforesaid affair; and that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested, not to give any commission to said Capt. John Dennis, for a privateering voyage, until his said owners, or some other substantial persons will give sufficient security, to answer to the aforesaid affair, in behalf of said Capt. John Dennis.

Voted, that Messrs. Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, be, and they are hereby chosen commissioners, to meet with the commissioners that are, or shall be chosen by the neighboring governments, in order to treat about our mutual security in time of war.

God save the King.

*Admiral Warren and Gen. Pepperell to Governor Wanton.*

Louisbourg, May 6th, 1746.

Sir:—The weak condition of this garrison, by sickness, put us under a necessity of applying to Your Honor, by our joint letter of 25th of January last, for a reinforcement as early as possible, this spring; lest we should be disappointed in the troops intended for our relief, from Gibraltar; but as they happily arrived here 21st of last month, and as the sickness is greatly abated in the garrison, we flatter ourselves that if the colonies, who are, as well as our mother country, greatly interested in the safety and prosperity of this acquisition, will forward the raising and transporting levies, so as to keep the four regiments appointed for its protection, complete, we shall have no further occasion to put them to any trouble or expense for the defence of this conquest.

But as we find that the two Gibraltar regiments do not consist of above twelve hundred men, officers and all, including two companies and a quarter, yet expected in a transport from New York; and that (besides the old troops, for whose speedy dismission you are sensible the faith of the governments to which they respectively belong, is engaged, and our promise also,) we have not above four hundred men belonging to the new American regiments, including those that have enlisted here, and that have been sent from New England, which makes in all but about sixteen hundred men.

We hope the levies will go on well in all the colonies, that it may be in our power to keep their and our faith with the old troops; and as the good of His Majesty's service is so greatly interested herein, we doubt not but your government will afford their best assistance, by encouraging the enlistments among them, and transporting what men may be raised, by such vessels as may be bound here, from your government.

We shall send home, by every opportunity, as many of the old troops belonging to the several colonies, (whose health or other necessities most require it,) as the arrival of the levies for the new regiments, and the other circumstances of the garrison will admit of.

We are Your Honor's very humble servants,

P. WARREN,  
WM. PEPPERELL.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 2d day of June, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for raising forces for His Majesty's service, in the expedition against Canada.

Whereas, His Majesty has been pleased to signify to this colony, by a letter from His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, his royal intentions to employ a considerable body of his troops, under the command of Lieutenant General St. Clair, with a sufficient squadron of men-of-war, under the command of Rear Admiral Warren, for the reduction of Canada, to his obedience; and that it is his pleasure this colony should forthwith raise as many men as the shortness of the time will permit, and send them to the general rendezvous, at Louisbourg; and this government being willing to give all possible evidence of their loyalty and gratitude to His Majesty, and zeal for his service, in this important expedition, so wisely formed, to enlarge the dominions and commerce of Great Britain, and so absolutely necessary for the security and happiness of all His Majesty's subjects, in North America;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of said colony, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that three companies of able bodied soldiers be forthwith raised in this colony, consisting of one hundred men each, (including the officers,) immediately to enter into His Majesty's service, and to be transported with all expedition, to Louisbourg, to join His Majesty's other forces expected there, for the carrying on said expedition against Canada; and that each able bodied man that shall enlist in the aforesaid service, shall have given him as an encouragement, from said colony, a bounty of £50, in bills of public credit, of the old tenor; and shall have given him a suit of clothes to the value of £20, old tenor; and be furnished with a small arm and cartouch box, over and above His Majesty's pay, and the share of booty taken.

And that the captain or commanding officer of each respective company or trained band, within this colony, be, and they are hereby empowered and required to enlist as many men as they can, and have them at Newport, by the 13th day of June instant, in order to receive their bounty.

And that His Honor, the Governor, forthwith give orders to

the several colonels in this colony, to direct the several and respective captains or commanding officers of each company, within their regiments, to be as expeditious as possible in their enlisting men in the aforesaid service.

And that the commissary of said colony, forthwith procure said arms, cartouch boxes and clothes, at the expense of the colony; and provide six months' provisions proper for the support of said soldiers, according to the stated allowance of the colony; and that said soldiers be immediately after their enlistment, sent to Louisbourg.

And John Cranston and Abraham Redwood, Esqs., Messrs. Jonathan Nichols and George Wanton, are hereby appointed a committee for the procuring proper transports, furnished with mariners and necessaries, upon monthly hire, as they shall agree, for the carrying said forces to Louisbourg, and from thence, up the river of St. Lawrence, to Quebec, or any other place of landing His Majesty's forces; and they are hereby empowered to draw on the general treasurer for the necessary expense thereof, giving security to the owners of such transports, for the payment of the value of such vessels, if lost; and to be repaid the same, in case by any accident, they are obliged to pay damages.

And till such time as said soldiers as sent off from Louisbourg, they shall be billeted out at Newport, by the field officers of the said county of Newport, at thirty shillings per week, for which they shall draw money out of the general treasury; and the necessary charges of enlistment, and bringing the said soldiers to Newport, shall be paid to the officers enlisting such men, by the government.

[The remainder of this act, (which is quite long,) contains the oath to be taken by the officers and soldiers; it also relates to the fitting of the sloop Tartar, which was to accompany the expedition, the expenses of enlisting the soldiers and sailors, their pay, the emission of £11,250, in bills of credit, and the levying of a tax on the polls and ratable estates of the inhabitants for the purpose.]

Voted and resolved, that any persons, inhabitants of this colony, who are skillful pilots in the navigation in the bay and river of St. Lawrence, and will undertake to serve as pilots in His Majesty's fleet, now going to Canada; upon applying themselves to the Governor of this colony, and proving themselves to be such, and that they will go into His Majesty's fleet as pilots, shall receive from the general treasurer of this county, a bounty of £200, old tenor, each, and such wages as shall be allowed by His Majesty.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 12th day of June, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act to prevent soldiers from being rescued or detained, after enlistment, to go in the expedition against Canada.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof, that if any soldier that hath enlisted, or that shall enlist himself to go in the expedition against Canada, shall be rescued or detained from His Majesty's said service, upon information thereof, made to any assistant or justice of the peace, in the county where such offence is, or shall be committed, such assistant or justice of the peace is hereby empowered and required to grant forth his warrant for apprehending such soldier, and deliver him to the officer who enlisted him; and for want of such soldier, to apprehend the person or persons that shall rescue or detain such soldier, and commit him or them to His Majesty's jail in the county where such offence shall be committed, there to remain till the next court of

general sessions of the peace ; who are to take cognizance of said offence, and to fine each offender that shall be committed, the sum of £200, to and for the use of the colony.

Voted and resolved, that the sum of £20, which was allowed to purchase a suit of clothes, for each of the soldiers, be augmented to £26 ; and that every soldier, which has a suit of clothes sufficient for the expedition at the time of his enlistment, shall have the liberty of receiving the sum of £26 in lieu of a suit of clothes ; and also, that every soldier, who was partly supplied with a sufficiency of clothing for the expedition at his enlisting, shall be supplied by the commissary with what shall be wanting ; and such soldiers shall have the liberty of drawing the surplusage of the £26, in money ; and that the said commissary, in delivering to said soldiers clothes and money, be governed according to a certificate that shall be given by the captain of such company to which the said soldier or soldiers shall belong ; who is hereby appointed to examine and view such soldiers, and their clothing, and to determine what shall be wanting to each soldier ; and that the officers that were appointed to enlist soldiers, be still continued in that service, till Tuesday, the 25th day of June instant, if a sufficient number be not enlisted before, and then to make report to the General Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, upon application to him made by the committee appointed to hire suitable vessels for transporting the soldiers raised, and to be raised for the expedition against Canada, be, and he is hereby directed and fully empowered to impress suitable vessels for the purpose aforesaid ; and also, all such workmen as shall be necessary for repairing and fitting said vessels, with all expedition ; and that if said committee and the owners of such vessels as shall be impressed, as aforesaid, cannot agree upon the value thereof, indifferent persons shall be chosen by both parties, to appraise and value the same ; and the said committee shall give security accordingly ; and if they cannot agree for the hire thereof, the same shall be settled by the General Assembly.



Whereas, instructions have been sent by His Majesty to this government, for raising a number of land forces, and armed vessels to join in the expedition against Canada, and the General Assembly have thought fit to send the colony sloop Tartar in said expedition, and passed an act for that purpose ;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the act passed, directing said sloop to cruise with the Connecticut colony sloop the ensuing summer season, be repealed ; and that His Honor, the Governor, inform His Honor, the Governor of Connecticut, of this resolution, and the reasons that produced it.

Voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby directed and fully empowered to take into custody, as prisoners of war, as many of those freemen subjects of the King of Spain, that were taken by Capt. John Dennis and Capt. Robert Morris, in company, and brought into this colony and sold for slaves, as can be found within the same, to be sent home in a flag of truce, to be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, as soon as conveniently may be, for the releasement of those of His Majesty's subjects that are prisoners at the Havana, and were taken from Capt. Dennis ; and that Daniel Denton, (who was one of said prisoners, and was suffered to come away, in order to procure the freemen brought into and sold in this government, as aforesaid, to be sent back for the releasement of the said prisoners in the Havana,) be sent to the Havana, in said flag of truce.

And that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Messrs. John Calender, Daniel Updike and Edward Scott, be a committee, to draft a letter for His Honor, the Governor, to sign, and send to the Governor of the Havana, informing him of what this government has done, and the reasons why it was not done before ; and also, another letter to be sent to the Governor of New York, requesting him to release so many of the freemen subjects of the King of Spain, who were taken with the aforementioned, as can be found within that government.

And that the owners and agents of the brigantine Defiance, and snow, Duke of Marlborough, privateers, reimburse to those persons who bought the said freemen, who shall be released, of

those brought into this government, as aforesaid, the money which they paid for them ; and that the same committee draft another letter, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, in answer to the letter of His Honor, the Governor of Pennsylvania.

And that the act passed at the last session of this Assembly, prohibiting said John Dennis having a commission, be, and it is hereby repealed.

And that the speaker of the house of deputies, be empowered and requested to treat with any persons within the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, who are owners of any of the said freemen sold for slaves, as aforesaid, about their releasement ; and that if any of said freemen, who were sold for slaves in this colony, as aforesaid, are dead, that evidences thereof be taken by the aforesaid sheriff, and transmitted to the Havana, with the letter.

Voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to hire transports, procure a doctor for the land forces, to go against Canada, upon the best terms they can ; and that the commissary procure a doctor, for the colony sloop Tartar, upon the best terms he can ; and that the commissary provide medicines for both said doctors ; and also tents for the land forces, and a suitable bed and blanket for every two men.

Voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby directed and fully empowered, to borrow as much money as the government has an immediate necessity for ; and in behalf of the colony to give his note, to pay the same upon demand.

Voted and resolved, that Capt. Joseph Pendleton be, and he is hereby fully empowered to enlist soldiers to go in the expedition against Canada ; and that he have a reasonable allowance for the same.

Voted and resolved, that the secretary send an order to each of the ferrymen, who transport persons from Rhode Island, forbidding them to carry any of the soldiers, enlisted in the expedi-

tion against Canada, off from said island, without a certificate from their captain, or commanding officer.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 24th day of June, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor,

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that the Hon. Jos. Whipple, Esq., Deputy Governor, John Cranston, Esq., Messrs. George Wanton and James Sheffield, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to take up a proper vessel for a flag of truce, for transporting the Spanish prisoners (brought into this colony by Capt. Morris,) to the Havana; or in case any merchant shall think proper to offer a vessel for that service, they apply to said committee, who are directed to accept the same, if they think proper.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to His Excellency, the Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, or in his absence, to the Lieutenant Governor of said Province; and also to His Honor, the Governor of the colony of Connecticut, to know of them when they expect their forces [now] raising, to go in the expedition against Canada, will embark; and whether any convoy will be provided for them.

Voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport be, and he is hereby directed and empowered, upon request of the committee appointed to procure vessels to transport the soldiers raised and to be raised, to go in the expedi-

tion against Canada, to impress as many men as the said committee shall think proper, for manning said vessels.

Voted and resolved, that the captains of all the companies in this colony continue enlisting soldiers till the 8th day of July next; and that all the soldiers that shall be enlisted, be brought to Newport, by that day; and that the sum of £1,000, old tenor, be lodged in the hands of each of the colonels of the regiments, in this colony, to be distributed amongst such of their captains as they shall think proper, for paying the bounties to such soldiers as shall be enlisted; and said captains to be accountable to the colonels, and the colonels to be accountable to the General Assembly, for what money they shall receive for the purpose, aforesaid; and that said captains return what soldiers they shall enlist, to the respective colonels, with their names; and that the colonels take care of them, and see that they are all at Newport, by the said 8th day of July next.

An Act for stating the ferriage over Weybosset river, in the town of Providence.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the colony, aforesaid, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that Amaziah Waterman, of said Providence, keep a ferry on the east side, and Henry Sweeting, of said Providence, keep a ferry on the west side of said Weybosset river, for transporting persons, horses, chaises, chairs, and other things over said river; and that they take for ferriage, two pence, for a single person, four pence for a person and horse; one shilling and sixpence, for a chaise or chair, with a horse, and the persons riding therein; and so to continue until a bridge be built over said river; and that no other person presume to ferry over said river for hire.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 8th day of July, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that a lieutenant colonel be appointed to command the land forces, raising in this colony, for the expedition against Canada.

Voted and resolved, that Robert Gibbs, Esq., Messrs. Stephen Hopkins and Daniel Updike, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to draw a letter in answer to the letter from Admiral Warren, to His Honor, the Governor, and present the same to this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that the captains of the three companies which are going in the expedition against Canada, or any two of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to view and examine the arms purchased for said companies; and that those which will do for said expedition, be immediately put in good order, and those which are not good, be returned to the persons of whom they were purchased, and others that are good, be procured by the commissary in their room; and that those arms which were purchased as good arms, and in good order, and are not so, be repaired at the charge of those persons who sold them; and that the committee employ as many gunsmiths to fit said arms as shall be necessary to do the same, with the greatest expedition.

Upon the petition of John Beard, Randall Eldred and Robert Durfey, masters of the three vessels hired by this colony for transporting the soldiers raised for the expedition against Canada, craving an allowance for the necessaries of their cabin, during their continuance in the service;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the sum of £20, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, for the cabin expenses of each of the transports which are to carry the soldiers to Canada, and that the same be paid to each of the captains of said transports.

Voted and resolved, that in case the other governments send their soldiers to Louisbourg, without His Majesty's commissions to their officers, that our officers and soldiers be also sent to Louisbourg ; and that His Honor, the Governor, give commissions to our officers to continue till they receive His Majesty's commissions ; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to Gen. St. Clair, or any other person, to whom His Majesty's commissions shall be sent, requesting him to deliver commissions to all our officers, agreeably to their respective nominations here.

Voted and resolved, that the commissary procure proper arms for the commissioned officers of the companies raising in this colony, for the expedition against Canada.

Voted and resolved, that the time for enlisting soldiers for the expedition against Canada, be continued till further orders, or advice shall come to this colony for embarking the soldiers, unless the companies be filled up before that time ; and if said companies be not then full, that His Honor, the Governor, forthwith give out a warrant for impressing a sufficient number of soldiers to fill up said companies, in the counties of Newport and Providence, in the following manner, viz. :

Capt. Sayer's company to be filled up in the county of Newport.

Capt. Rice's company in the county of Providence.

Capt. Cole's company to be filled up equally in the counties of Newport and Providence.

And that none of the inhabitants of King's county, be impressed ; but that any other persons may be impressed that can be found in any part of the colony ; and that all the soldiers be ordered to Goat Island, as soon as sufficient beds, blankets and tents are provided for them ; and that from this time, the lieutenant colonel and other officers of the several

companies, going in the expedition against Canada, be the enlisting officers, and no other.

I, the subscriber, dissent from that part of the vote above, respecting the impress.

CALEB CARR.

Voted, that the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., Deputy Governor, Daniel Coggeshall, Esq., Messrs. John Spenser, Samuel Perry and David Anthony, be, and they are hereby chosen trustees for the care and management of the rents and profits of the estate submitted to this government by the late Ninegret, sachem, deceased, in the year 1713, for the use of the proper heir.

Voted and resolved, that the King's attorney draw a proper instrument, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, under the colony seal, empowering the agent, in behalf of the Governor and Company of this colony, to apply to His Majesty's ministers and Parliament, to receive the money for the expense of the expedition against Cape Breton, and to give discharge or discharges for the same, in behalf of the colony; and that the same be transmitted to the agent, with a copy of the Duke of Newcastle's letter, to this government the last year, to assist Commodore Warren.

Voted and resolved, that John Cranston and Abraham Redwood, Esqs., Messrs. Peter Bours, Geo. Wanton and Jonathan Nichols, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to act, transact and direct every thing which shall be needful and necessary respecting the expedition against Canada, which shall be left undone by this Assembly at their rising; and that said committee, or the major part of them, examine the accounts of the officers going in said expedition, and order the general treasurer to pay what they think reasonable and just; and that the commissary provide one more blanket for every two soldiers going in said expedition; and that if any person who shall be impressed for said expedition, shall afterward enlist and swear as the law directs, he shall

be entitled to the bounty and all other advantages which the other enlisted soldiers were entitled to.

God save the King.

*Admiral Warren to Governor Greene.*

Boston. 29th June, 1746.

Sir:—I came hither from Louisbourg, to concert measures with Gov. Shirley, for carrying on the intended operations against Canada with all possible despatch, as directed by His Majesty's instructions.

Upon looking over the votes of the different colonies interested in the success of this important enterprise, I find the number of men proposed by your government, as their quota, to be much fewer than we hoped from thence, upon this glorious occasion given the colonies to extirpate so dangerous an enemy as the French have always been, and will ever prove to them; by which means, a lasting foundation to latest generations will be laid for the peace and prosperity of all His Majesty's American dominions, in competition with which no expense can be adequate, nor should be once thought of by the colonies or our mother country, as a successful attempt must make them ample amend for the greatest debts that can be the consequence of this great undertaking.

I am of opinion, that all the seamen should be engaged, that you can possibly meet with, to go in the armed vessels from each colony; and that no time be lost, as the season will very soon render it impracticable to make the attempt this year; in which case, however, I hope Crown Point, from whence all our frontiers are, and have been annoyed, may be reduced as a proper place of rendezvous, and stores for the army destined to go to Montreal.

Though my health is very much impaired, nothing shall be wanting in me to act the part allotted me in this expedition. The ministry appointing me so suddenly after I had, with the most earnest application, procured His Majesty's leave to resign the government of Louisbourg, for the recovery of my health, is owing to their opinion of my great regard and attachment to the colonies, in which they do me but common justice; for no man has their prosperity more at heart; which shall be manifested by my actions as well as words, when occasion offers, which I hope will be very soon.

I shall be proud to receive your commands; and any intelligence you can procure about the situation of Canada, or if you have any pilots acquainted with the navigation thither.

I am, with very great regard, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. WARREN.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.

*Governor Greene to Admiral Sir Peter Warren.*

Providence, July —, 1746.

Sir:—I acknowledge the favor of yours, upon your arrival in Boston, and would beg leave to observe to you, that however small the quota of men proposed by



Rhode Island may seem, when the votes of the several governments for raising men are compared, yet if the smallness of this government be considered, and its present circumstances, the quota of men voted, must be looked upon as many as in reason could be expected from this small colony.

Upon a fair and exact computation, the number of men in the colony of Rhode Island, proper for bearing arms, cannot be computed to be more than three thousand; which number, must be greatly lessened within these few months past by the number of vessels fitted out and cruising against His Majesty's enemies.

There being out of this colony, and fitting out on that account, three ships, of about twenty guns each; one snow, and four brigantines, of about sixteen guns each; and four sloops, of about twelve guns each; which are all manned from this place, and are actually out on their cruise, saving one brigantine and two sloops, now fitting out, and which in this small government, must necessarily greatly exhaust the number of men fit for His Majesty's service on the present occasion.

However, this government considered the expedition intended for the reduction of Canada, as an undertaking of the utmost consequence to all His Majesty's colonies in America; and that they might be aiding and assisting as far as the strength and circumstances of this small government would admit, cheerfully ordered three hundred able bodied soldiers to be raised and sent to join His Majesty's land forces; and one hundred seamen in the sloop Tartar, lately in His Majesty's service, at Louisbourg, to attend on the sea force.

And that the soldiers might enter the service with the greater cheerfulness, and resolution, the government ordered a large bounty, and have taken care that they should be well clothed; by which means, notwithstanding the scarcity of men in the colony, the companies are nearly filled up, and are daily under discipline, and will be ready for embarkation immediately upon the officers' receiving their commission; and therefore it may be proper that timely notice be given whether it be expected that these forces be sent directly to Louisbourg, or attend a convoy at the Massachusetts.

And I am well assured, that this government had such a sense of His Majesty's gracious intentions by this expedition, and of the lasting consequence of the effect of it, if well executed, that they acted with an intention of sending a full quota, and to be no ways wanting on this extraordinary occasion; and I cannot but flatter myself that this matter will appear in the same light to you, when this small colony, under its present circumstances, is compared with the other larger governments in North America.

As it has appeared by long and melancholy experience, that the peace and welfare of His Majesty's subjects in North America can never be established as long as Canada subsists, it was with the greatest joy that His Majesty's subjects in this colony received the news of his intentions to reduce it, and the appointment of Admiral Warren to have the chief command of the sea force, made the joy more universal; and as in this government, it has been a means of raising the soldiers and sailors with the greater ease; it is not doubted, but under the influence of Providence, will be of as happy consequence in the designed effect.

This government has also given due encouragement for the engaging any persons that are acquainted with the navigation to Canada; but by reason of the distant situation of this colony, a more exact account of the situation of that country and more skillful pilots may be had from some of His Majesty's other governments, than can be expected from this.

Whatever directions shall be communicated respecting the forces from this government, will be received with pleasure, and put in execution with all possible expedition, by sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

P. S. As the honor of the government was at stake for the releasement of those sailors sent for manning the ship *Vigilant*, this government would beg a line, by which they may assure their friends that that point had been complied with.  
To Admiral Warren.

*Governor Shirley and Admiral Warren to Governor Greene.*

Boston, July 4th, 1746.

Sir:—Last week Mr. Warren came here in the *Chester*, from *Louisbourg*, in order to settle, with Mr. Shirley (and Gen. St. Clair's approbation, when he shall arrive,) the plan of operations for the expedition against *Canada*, in the most speedy manner, which the advanced season of the year requires to be done without the least loss of time; as it also does, that all the governments concerned in it, should push on the completing of the levies, and making the necessary preparations and dispositions for it within their respective colonies with the utmost despatch; and in doing which, we think they should act with the utmost vigor, not regarding what they may esteem to be barely their just quota and proportion of men and money in this expedition, but the importance of the enterprise towards either laying a most sure foundation for the general welfare and prosperity of all these colonies, or leaving them in so precarious a situation, as may sometime or other expose them to be reduced under the power and subjection of the French; upon which account, they should consider themselves as one body, united in the common cause, in which, if any one particular colony should exert itself beyond either its just proportion or abilities, it may (we doubt not) be depended upon that the exceedings of such colony will be made up to it, either by an average to be afterwards settled among all the colonies concerned, or by a reimbursement from His Majesty, or the Parliament of Great Britain.

And it ought to be, in a particular manner considered, that this will, in all probability, be the only favorable opportunity of attempting the driving of the French off from the northern part of this continent, which if neglected, may never be redeemed; but followed close by an endless train of disadvantages and difficulties to all His Majesty's northern colonies, too many to be enumerated here, and too obvious to need it.

Wherefore, we trust that all His Majesty's governments upon this continent, will leave nothing untried for raising a sufficient force for securing the success of the present enterprise, that is, all the force they can raise.

The securing of the assistance of the Six Nations, we esteem a point most essential to the success of the expedition, and necessary to be gained at any rate; Mr. Gooch writes to Mr. Shirley, that he will come with presents in his hands for this purpose.

All possible despatch is so apparently necessary for our succeeding in this expedition, or even proceeding upon it, that we are persuaded Your Honor will agree with us in it.

We enclose Your Honor a memorandum of what we apprehend necessary to be provided; and doubt not but you will be pleased to provide what part of them can be had in your government; we hope in particular, that two armed sloops, brigs, galleons or mows, with eighty men and ten carriage guns each, may be procured by Your Honor; and we think that as it will be absolutely necessary that the troops should be prepared to winter in the enemy's country, ten months' provisions should be got for them, and some salt put on board every transport, which will be of service to cure what fresh stock may be had in Canada; and as there will be a greater number of seamen wanting, for not only the transports and armed vessels from the colonies, but His Majesty's ships also, at Louisbourg, the Vigilant in particular, we hope Your Honor will assist as much as may be, by an impress, or otherwise, as you shall think proper.

We take the liberty to observe to you, that we are assured it will be a matter of surprise to His Majesty's ministry to find what a small proportion of forces the colony under your government has contributed towards carrying on this expedition; and we flatter ourselves that when your Assembly shall consider how much below their abilities they have acted upon this extraordinary occasion, and compare themselves and what they have done for the common cause, with the other colonies of New England, and in particular with New Hampshire, and the part they have acted at this important juncture; that they will think it not only reasonable and fit, but for their interest to augment their levies to a just number.

We beg leave farther to observe, that the extraordinary bounty your Assembly has voted for encouraging those few men to enlist, which are to be raised as the quota of your government, has not had the best effect upon His Majesty's service in the neighboring colonies; having, as we are informed, not only drawn several of their men from them, but damped the enlistments within those colonies, where the bounty given, though a very sufficient one, is yet much below that given by your Assembly.

Mr. Shirley is in hopes that troops raised in this Province, may sail by the 20th instant, under convoy of the Massachusetts frigate, and probably of His Majesty's ship Chester; and we shall be glad, if you think proper, that your troops should rendezvous here, to have them go in company with the Massachusetts and Connecticut forces, which latter propose their rendezvous at Boston.

We have, in a joint letter, desired Lieut. Gen. St. Clair to come to Boston, as it will save much time in forwarding the expedition, for doing which, nothing shall be wanting on our parts, nor will, we are persuaded, on Your Honor's.

We are, with very great regard, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants.

W. SHIRLEY,  
P. WARREN.

We desire the favor of you to let us know, as soon as possible, the number of troops you shall be able to raise in your government, and by what time they will get to the place of rendezvous.

*Letter from Governor Greene to Governor Shirley and Admiral  
Sir Peter Warren.*

Gentlemen:—Your favors of the 4th and 7th of July instant, came safe by the messenger, on Monday last, being two days after the Assembly rose; which now stands adjourned to the 19th of next month.

As to what you write about procuring two armed snows or brigantines, &c., cannot determine without the approbation of the General Assembly; for which purpose, intend to be advised by the council, whether they think proper to call them together before the day they stand adjourned to.

Our colony sloop will sail with the transports, with one hundred men on board, (officers included,) well found and provided.

As for the provisions, the General Assembly had devolved a power on the committee for carrying on the affairs of the expedition; and care will be taken to put a sufficient quantity on board, with some salt. Our colony sloop and transports are now nearly ready, and I design they shall sail immediately to Boston, for the benefit of a convoy, and go in company with the other forces, to Louisbourg.

As to what you write about the coasters, during the time of the embargo here, not one was stopped a moment from proceeding on his voyage, being all exempted in the warrant; and at all other times never met with any hindrance here.

As for the other affairs, of raising more levies, I cannot give you any tolerable encouragement to expect; but must refer you to the letter I sent the Hon. Admiral Warren, of the 11th instant, wherein the sentiments of our General Assembly on that subject, are fully expressed. However, what I can do in the affair, for His Majesty's service, shall not be wanting.

Being with due respect, gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

Newport, 18th July, 1746.

WILLIAM GREENE.

To His Excellency, Wm. Shirley, Esq., and the Hon. Peter Warren, Esq., Boston.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode  
Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tues-  
day in August, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act appointing a council of war, to hold a court martial on the soldiers raised for the expedition against Canada, till they shall join His Majesty's forces.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that the lieutenant colonel and three captains, and the three first lieutenants of the forces bound for Canada, or a major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a council of war, for the punishing any of the officers and men that belong to said forces, according to martial law; and that said power be continued in them until they join His Majesty's forces from Europe.

Voted and resolved, that all the soldiers raised for the expedition against Canada, be forthwith put on board the transports, there to continue; only to go on shore upon Goat Island as often as the commanding officers shall think proper, for exercising; and that the transports be hauled as near Goat Island as conveniently as may be; and that said soldiers have their full allowance of provisions on board, agreeably to act of Assembly; and that Capt. Jonathan Nichols, be, and he is hereby appointed to procure said provisions, and see that the soldiers have the same regularly, and in good order.

Voted and resolved, that all the tents, both of the officers and men, raised to go in the expedition against Canada, be lined at the top, and painted; and that the commissary procure the same to be done as soon as may be.

Voted and resolved, that John Cranston, Esq., Messrs. Sam'l Wickham and Thomas Cranston, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to call the several captains or other officers appointed by this colony for the expedition against Cape Breton, or their representatives, who received the money and clothing for the use of the soldiers that went in said expedition, to account for the same; and upon their refusing or neglecting to account, that they be sued by the general treasurer, forthwith.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 29th day of September, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for making additional works at Fort George, and supplying said fort with warlike stores.

Whereas, the well fortifying the town of Newport, and furnishing the fortifications there with warlike stores, are necessary for the security of the government;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the colony, aforesaid, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the sum of £2,120 in money, of the old tenor, be allowed, out of the general treasury, towards the completing the new works, and the alteration of the old battery adjoining to Fort George, at Goat Island, and already begun.

And that Jahleel Brenton and John Gardner, Esqs., Messrs. Godfrey Malbone, John Brown, Philip Wilkinson, Joseph Harrison, Peter Harrison, Walter Chaloner, James Sheffield, Wm. Read, Capt. Joshua Sayer, William Rice and Edward Cole, or the major part of them, be established and appointed a committee to finish the said new battery, or work begun, and make the alterations in the old battery, at said Goat Island; and that the said sum of £2,120, be paid to them, or the major part of them, out of the general treasury, for the procuring timber, plank and materials necessary for carrying on and completing said works, and paying the artificers who shall work on the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissary forthwith provide for said Fort George, at the

expense of the colony, thirty barrels of gunpowder, and as many shot, as together with what is already at said fort, will make up the complement of twenty rounds for each cannon at said fort; and that the said commissary also provide all small stores that are necessary for the service of said fort, the charges whereof shall be paid out of the general treasury.

*Dissent.—Vote for additional works at Fort George.*

1. For that if the circumstances of the colony be duly considered, they are not in a condition to be at the expense of any additional fortifications.

2. For that the town of Newport hath already had built, at the charge of the colony, a fort sufficient to guard it against the attacks of any private men-of-war, fitted out by private persons; and that as the works now about to be built, will not be able to defend them against the fleets of any sovereign prince, it is conceived they will be entirely useless.

3. For that we apprehend such a sum of money as must necessarily be expended in the works proposed, will be much more useful for the defence of the colony, if it be kept in the general treasury until it be known in what place and in what manner we shall be attacked by the enemy.

STEP. HOPKINS,  
GEO. BROWN,

JOB RANDALL,  
WALTER PHETTIPLACE.

Voted and resolved, that the colony sloop Tartar, be immediately sent to meet Admiral Lestock, agreeably to the request of His Excellency, Governor Shirley and Admiral Warren, with the packet sent by those gentlemen, to inform Admiral Lestock of the situation of the French naval force upon the coast of North America; and that His Honor, the Governor, give orders to the captain of the colony sloop agreeably to the form sent by Governor Shirley and Admiral Warren; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to those gentlemen by the next post, and inform them that this colony concurs with them in the necessity of Admiral Lestock's being apprised as above; and that for said purpose, our colony sloop was ordered immediately to sail.

Voted and resolved, that Col. Daniel Updike and Mr. Josias Lyndon, be a committee to draw a letter, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and send to our agent, with a draft of the new works at Goat Island, directing the agent to use his

best endeavors to procure the cannon which this colony has petitioned His Majesty for; and that he send them over by the first opportunity.

God save the King.

*Gov. Shirley and Admiral Warren to Gov. Greene.*

Boston, September 29th, 1746.

Sir:—As you will perceive by the enclosed letters and intelligence,\* which we transmit to you, open, what steps we have taken to apprise Admiral Lestock (who, with a strong fleet, may be daily expected upon the coast of Nova Scotia, or Cape Breton,) of the situation and strength of the enemy's naval force, seen the 16th instant off the harbor of Chebucto, near Cape Samborough.

We have despatched as many vessels as we could possibly get here, to meet the Admiral, with this intelligence; and are of opinion you can't do your King and country a greater piece of service, than by despatching your colony sloop without a moment's loss of time, to cruise for Admiral Lestock, with this intelligence, till the 25th of October, unless she should sooner meet with him. And as the English fleet will most probably make the Cape Sable shore, to the westward of the Isle of Sables, we are of opinion the enclosed will be a proper order, and the station mentioned therein, most likely to meet the fleet; and therefore flatter ourselves you will approve of it.

We have letters from Mr. Mascarene, governor of Annapolis, dated the 21st instant, by which we find the Chester and Shirley frigate were there, and that he had heard of no French ships being in the Bay of Fundy; and we hope, ere this, the reinforcement of troops sent by Governor Shirley, are safe there.

We are, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

W. SHIRLEY,

P. WARREN.

P. S. We esteem it of the last consequence to the colonies, that Admiral Lestock should be met with at sea; as in case he should be too weak, to cope with the enemy, without the assistance of Admiral Townsend, and be surprised, and overpowered by them, the storm of their whole force would be immediately directed towards New England; wherefore, we hope we may depend absolutely upon your sending out your colony sloop, with the enclosed despatches, forthwith.

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\* The intelligence alluded to, conveyed in a number of letters and depositions was, that a large French fleet, consisting of twenty-six ships of war and forty transports, had been despatched on an expedition against Newfoundland and Cape Breton, on board of which were fifteen thousand troops, with all sorts of implements of war, for a siege; and that a large fleet of French ships had been seen at sea.



*Gov. Greene to Gov. Shirley and Admiral Warren.*

Newport, 3d Oct., 1746.

Gentlemen:—Your favor of the 29th of September, came safe; at which time, the colony sloop *Tartar* was on a cruise, and did not return till yesterday morning; and out of the due regard I have for His Majesty's service, (and our common safety,) on this emergent occasion, according to your desire, have this morning directed Capt. Fones to sail immediately, and given him his sailing orders, with the packet for Admiral Lestock, whom I hope he may readily meet with, that the admiral may have proper intelligence, to prevent any part of his fleet from falling into the enemy's hands, and thereby being prevented from doing that service towards the annoyance of the French fleet now on our eastern coasts, which might be otherwise expected.

I hope that this government will be ready on all occasions, to exert themselves as much as possibly they can, for His Majesty's service, in the security and defence of your Province, or any of our neighbors; and am, with due regards, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

To His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., and the Honorable Peter Warren, Esq., in Boston.

*Letter from Governor Shirley and Admiral Warren, to Governor Greene.*

Boston, October 14, 1746.

Sir:—Having received advices of the great danger that the fortress of Annapolis Royal, and the whole Province of Nova Scotia is in of falling into the enemy's hands, unless succors be immediately sent from the colonies of New England, Mr. Shirley has accordingly sent nearly three hundred soldiers of His Majesty's troops, raised here for the expedition against Canada; and is sending more, to make up his quota of six hundred men; and we expect that three hundred more will be forthwith sent thither by Governor Wentworth; and as the preservation of this Province is of the utmost consequence for His Majesty's interest, and the security and prosperity of the colonies of New England, he will justly expect that at least the troops in his own pay, be employed for the defence of that country; and therefore we must earnestly urge Your Honor, without loss of time, to send, in proper vessels, the three hundred men raised in your government, for the expedition against Canada, for the defence of Annapolis Royal and Nova Scotia, the danger being so near, and the season of the year so far advanced, that the least delay may prove fatal.

We have enclosed an extract of a letter from Lieut. Gov. Mascarene, by which you will understand how he proposes to have these succors employed; and if you can immediately procure a number of whaleboats, they will be of great service.

We are, sir, your most obedient humble servants,

P. WARREN,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. William Greene.

P. S. The loss of Annapolis will make an addition of five or six thousand fighting men to the strength of the enemy, and thereby enable them to make further attempts even upon Louisbourg, or prevent the success of His Majesty's arms next year against Canada, if the King should think fit to extend them, to make that conquest.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 21st day of October, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Voted and resolved, that all the forces raised in this colony, for the expedition against Canada, that are able, be sent to Annapolis Royal, under the command of their respective officers, for the succor and support of that garrison, against His Majesty's enemies; and that an express be forthwith sent to Admiral Warren and Governor Shirley, informing them of the resolution of this Assembly, and desiring them to inform this government what convoy they will have for said forces; and that the committee of war follow the instructions and directions of Admiral Warren and Governor Shirley, in regard to sending away our said forces; and that the colony sloop Tartar join the convoy which shall be ordered by Admiral Warren and Governor Shirley to proceed with them to Annapolis Royal, and return again to this colony as soon as conveniently may be, after their arrival at Annapolis; and that the transports which shall carry our forces, also return with the colony sloop.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, commissionate the lieutenant colonel, and other commissioned officers appointed by this colony for the expedition against Canada, to continue till His Majesty's commissions shall arrive, when the

same be filled up with said officers' names, and delivered or sent to them.

And that His Honor, the Governor, write to Lieutenant Governor Mascarene, at Annapolis Royal, and recommend Lieut. Colonel Kinnicut to him, to be continued as a field officer, in His Majesty's service; and that he also inform the said Lieutenant Governor of what monies this colony shall advance for His Majesty to the several officers and soldiers towards their pay, that the same may be secured to the government.

Voted and resolved, that Samuel Wickham, Esq., be, and he is hereby added to the committee of war; and that they, or the major part of them, be a committee to take up of some gentlemen in Newport, upon the best terms they can, so much money as shall be necessary for the colony to pay the officers and soldiers raised for the Canada expedition, their advance wages, and what clothing is now wanting; and that bills be drawn upon the paymaster general in Great Britain, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, for payment of the same.

Voted and resolved, that the committee of war, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby fully empowered to do, act and transact all and every thing needful and necessary to be done, in respect to sending the forces raised in this colony to Annapolis Royal; and also in sending the colony sloop with them; and to displace officers, and appoint others in their room, or in the room of any others that shall be prevented going, by any way or means whatsoever; and in general to do every thing necessary, respecting the premises that shall be left undone by this Assembly at their rising, as fully in all respects as they were empowered relating to the Canada expedition.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

[There was no business of a public nature, transacted at this session of the Assembly.]

*Gov. Shirley and Admiral Warren to Gov. Greene.*

Boston, October 23d, 1746.

Sir:—We have received your letter by Lieut. Col. Kinnicut, and are glad that your government has shown so good a spirit, by cheerfully promoting a service of such importance, as the relief of Annapolis Royal, and the saving of it from falling into the enemy's hands.

Last night we received from the master of a vessel, that sailed with the French fleet, from Chebucto, (which place they have wholly abandoned,) such an account of the strength and good condition both of their land and sea forces, and of their intention to sail with their whole body to Annapolis Royal, as stopped our proceedings for a few hours.

But this afternoon, upon examining the captain of the English flag of truce, and two other gentlemen, of good reputation, who were taken prisoners by the French, sixteen days before their arrival at Chebucto, and two intelligent masters of vessels that were likewise prisoners, all of whom sailed with the fleet from Chebucto, and left them the 16th instant, by which the state of the fleet appears to us in a very different light from what it was at first represented to us; so that we have reason to judge that they are in a very weak condition, and are gone (at least the bulk of them,) to France, or the West Indies; and thereupon Governor Shirley is sending the remainder of his recruits, with all despatch, and does not think it proper to stay for convoy, as all the rest of his troops sailed without, and are safe arrived at Annapolis.

However, the first mentioned account has put us upon that caution, that we shall send away to-morrow, a small well sailing vessel, with a whaleboat and crew, to look into Annapolis basin; and if they find none of the enemy's ships there, to go up to the fort, and get what intelligence they can from the Governor; but if the enemy's ships are in Annapolis harbor, to come back immediately, so far as Passamaquoddy, to inform the officers of the troops and masters of the transports, whom Governor Shirley will order to stop at that place for advice, and to proceed to Annapolis, or

return back to Boston, according as the advice shall be ; and we judge it will be best for Your Honor to take the same method, by ordering your vessels to stop at Passamaquoddy ; and we shall desire Lieut. Governor Mascarene to send one of the ordinance tenders to that place, to meet your vessels, and wait at Passamaquoddy, till their arrival ; and you may depend upon it, that your vessels will meet with advice from Mr. Mascarene, at Passamaquoddy, if the navigation to Annapolis be safe.

As to what you mention, referring to Governor Shirley's giving a commission to Mr. Kinnicut ; he cannot see the propriety of it in this case ; it being left to every particular governor to dispose of the commissions over their own troops ; however, he will take effectual care that Col. Kinnicut shall not be subjected to any command below his own rank and character.

We are, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

W. SHIRLEY,

P. WARREN.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq.

P. S. Governor Wentworth informs Mr. Shirley, he sent two hundred soldiers from his government to Annapolis, last Sunday.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, October 27, 1746.

Sir :—I wrote to you by Lieut. Col. Kinnicut ; since when, I have advices arrived from Annapolis Royal, dated the 20th instant, informing me that they go on there very well against the enemy ; and want only more strength to drive the Canadians out of the province, forthwith ; whereupon, Governor Mascarene presses me for such an addition of men, as will make up what is sent fifteen hundred or two thousand. Accordingly, by to-morrow, near four hundred men, will, I hope, be embarked, and sail from hence, over and above what I before sent, which was two hundred and sixty ; and I shall to-morrow give orders for three hundred men more to prepare for embarkation ; and hope to get them ready for sailing by Friday, at farthest. These, with the two hundred men from Governor Wentworth, and your three hundred, will make about sixteen hundred ; and I have pressed Governor Wentworth to send a further reinforcement, which I am in hopes he will do ; and I must entreat Your Honor to hasten your three companies, if they shall not be sailed before this comes to your hands, with all possible speed.

The officer who brought me the despatches from Annapolis, saw nothing of the French fleet in the Bay of Fundy, in his passage ; and I have just now heard that they have been seen sixty leagues to the south-west of Cape Sable ; at all events, every one here is persuaded, with myself, that they are in a miserable, sickly, weak condition, and are making the best of their way to the West Indies ; and we have now an opportunity of giving the finishing stroke to the Canadians, in Nova Scotia, which I hope we shall not let slip ; as it might prove of bad consequence to us, in every respect, the next spring.

I am, with all due regard, sir,

Your Honor's obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To Governor Greene.

The post stays for this ; excuse haste.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on 11th day of November, 1746.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act appointing commissioners to mark out the bounds of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., eastward, towards the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, agreeably to His Majesty's royal determination in council, the 28th day of May, 1746.

Whereas, this colony has received His Majesty's said royal determination, ascertaining the boundaries between the said colony and said Province, and hath commanded the Governor and Company of said colony, and all others whom it may concern, to govern themselves accordingly, which renders it absolutely necessary to mark out the several boundaries ordered in His Majesty's said determination, that this colony and the inhabitants who dwell near said lines, may be the better enabled to pay due obedience to His Majesty's commands;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that James Honeyman, Jr., Gideon Cornell and George Brown, Esq., Mr. George Wanton and Capt. Walter Chaloner, be appointed commissioners, on the part of this colony; and they, or the major part of them, to join such other commissioners as are, or shall be appointed by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, with full power and authority to represent this colony in marking out the several boundaries, and running the several lines, agreeably to His Majesty's said determination; and the com-

missioners so appointed and authorized, as aforesaid, shall meet at Pawtucket Falls, on the 2d day of December next, and then begin said service.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case the Province of the Massachusetts Bay shall not appoint any commissioners on their part, in order to join those appointed by this colony, that then the commissioners on the part of this colony, proceed on, and complete said lines and boundaries.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the duplicate of His Majesty's said proclamation, and a copy of this act be forthwith transmitted by express to His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

Voted and resolved, that the commissioners appointed by this Assembly, for marking out the bounds of this colony, eastward, towards the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, be, and they are hereby empowered and directed to employ one or more skillful surveyor or surveyors, (if need require,) to attend them, in performing the above mentioned service.

Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be requested to write to His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, desiring him to forbid any of the officers of said Province, exercising any authority or jurisdiction for the future within the limits of this colony, as settled by His Majesty's determination, on the 28th day of May last past; and also, that His Honor, the Governor, send with his letter, by express to Governor Shirley, the duplicate of His Majesty's said determination, and the act of this Assembly for appointing commissioners on the part of this colony, for running and marking out the boundary lines between said colony and Province, and request of him to appoint commissioners on the part of said Province, to join with the commissioners appointed by this colony.

Whereas, the General Assembly has received information, that Pawcatuck bridge is out of repair;—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that Capt. William Pen-

deletion, be, and he is hereby appointed to repair this government's part of said bridge, at the charge of the colony.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 6th day of January, 1746-7.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

*Report of the Commissioners on the Eastern Boundary Line.*

Whereas, Messrs. James Honeyman, Jr., Gideon Cornell, George Brown, George Wanton and Walter Chaloner, were by the General Assembly, appointed commissioners, to mark out the bounds of the colony towards the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, agreeably to the late determination of the King, in council, who have perfected the same, and made report to this Assembly, of their proceedings as followeth :

We, the subscribers, appointed commissioners by the General Assembly of the colony, aforesaid, to mark out the bounds of the said colony eastwards, towards the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, agreeably to His Majesty's royal determination in council, the 28th day of May, 1746, did, in pursuance thereof, on the 2d day of December last past, meet at Pawtucket Falls, in expectation of meeting with commissioners that might be appointed by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, for the purpose, aforesaid ; and after having there tarried till the after part of said day, and no commissioners in behalf of the said Province appearing, we proceeded to run a due north line from Pawtucket Falls to the south boundary of the aforesaid Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in manner following, viz. :

From a certain point on the southern side of Pawtucket Falls, where we erected a monument of stones, with a stake thereon, we run a meridian line, which directly passed through said falls, to a walnut tree on the northerly side of said falls ; then to a pitch pine tree ; then to a small white oak ; then to a grey oak ; then to a small bush ; then to another small bush, with stones about it ; then to a heap of stones, with a stake thereon ; then to a black oak tree ; then to another black oak ; then to a small pitch pine ; then to a black oak ; then to a large white oak, near the



river, called Abbott's Run; then to a poplar tree; then to a heap of stones, with a stake thereon; then to a large rock, with stones thereon; then to a small black oak tree; then to a walnut tree; then to a black oak; then to divers other marked trees, in the said course, to the extremity of the said line; and when we came near the termination of the said line, made a monument of stones, there being no noted south boundary of the said Province, near the said line; and therefore, for the discovery of the south boundary of the said Province, upon the best information we could obtain, proceeded to Wrentham Plain, at or near the place where was formerly erected a stake, called Woodward's and Saffery's Stake, as one remarkable south boundary of the said Province; and from thence, run a west line, making an allowance of eight degrees and an half, as the west variation of the magnetic needle from the true meridian; it being the course of the south line of the said Province, according to their charter, (as we apprehended;) and we then extended the said north line from the aforesaid monument, till it intersected the said west line; and upon the point of its intersection, erected a monument of stones, with a stake thereon, as the north-east boundary of that tract of land, commonly called the Gore; after which, we proceeded to Bullock's Neck, and on the south-west corner thereof, erected a red cedar post, marked with the letters I H C R, with the figure of an anchor thereon; and from thence, running a line north-east, making the same allowance for the variation, aforesaid, to a black oak tree, marked with the letters G C C R; then to a large white oak, marked with the letters G B C R; then to a white oak post, set in the ground, with a heap of stones around it, marked with the letters G W C R, with the figure of an anchor thereon; being three miles distant from Bullock's Neck, aforesaid; after which, we proceeded to the north-easternmost part of the bay, on the west side of Rumstick Neck; and from a point where a locust post was erected, ran a line three miles north-east, with the same allowance for the variation; and at the extremity of the said line, erected a monument of stones; from which we run a line to the north-east extremity of that line, drawn from the south-west corner of Bullock's Neck, aforesaid; the course whereof, being west thirty-eight degrees north, according to the magnetic needle, the distance nine hundred and fifty-five rods, (marking trees and making other boundaries in the course of said line;) after which we proceeded to the north-east corner of Bristol harbor, and from high water mark, which was some rods distant north-east from the bridge, leading to Swansey Ferry, we run a line three miles north-east, still making the same allowance for the variation; and at the extremity of which line, we erected a monument of stones; then we run a line from the north-east extremity of the line drawn from Rumstick, aforesaid, the course whereof being south twenty-five degrees east, till it met with the termination of the line drawn from Bristol harbor, aforesaid; the distance whereof, being nine hundred and twenty-seven rods; and from thence, a straight line to the bay, at Sowset Neck, (making proper boundaries in the course of said line;) after which, we proceeded to the eastern side of the Narragansett Bay; and on the easternmost part of a cove in the said bay, which is southward of Nancquastkett, run a line three miles east, (still making the same allowance for the variation); at the extremity whereof, we marked a gray oak tree, with the letters C R, with the figure of an anchor thereon; after which, we proceeded to the mouth of Fall River, and from thence, measured four hundred and forty rods southerly, on the shore, as the said shore extended itself from the mouth of said Fall River; and from the point where the said four hundred and forty rods reached, (being east thirty-five degrees south of the southernmost point of Shawomet Neck, we run a

fine, three miles east, with the same allowance for the variation ; in the course) whereof we marked divers trees, and came to a large pond ; on the west of which, was a small oak, between two large rocks ; and from thence, measured over the said pond, to a bunch of maples, two, whereof, we marked with letters I and F, standing on a place called Ralph's Neck, being the extremity of the said three miles ; from thence, we run a line south twenty degrees west, two thousand one hundred and twenty-three rods, (making proper boundaries in said line, till we met the termination of the three mile line ran from the cove, southward of Nancquaskett, aforesaid ; after which, we proceeded to a place called Church's Cove, in said bay, and ran a line three miles east, making the same allowance for the variation, aforesaid ; and at the extremity whereof, and near to the sea, we erected a monument of stones ; and from thence ran a line north, two degrees and a quarter east, one thousand and nine hundred and forty-one rods, till it almost met the termination of the said line drawn from the first mentioned cove, as aforesaid, making proper boundaries in the course of said line.

The aforegoing is a just account of our proceedings, and report the same, accordingly.

J. HONEYMAN, JR.,  
GEORGE WANTON,

GIDEON CORNELL,  
GEORGE BROWN.

And it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted by this Assembly.

Whereas, the committee of war, in pursuance of an order of the General Assembly, made a report to this Assembly, of their transactions and proceedings, in respect to sending to Annapolis Royal, the troops raised in this colony, for the intended enterprise upon Canada ; and also an account of their transactions and proceedings with regard to the colony's sloop, &c. which said report being duly considered ;—

It is voted and resolved by this Assembly, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

Voted, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to procure of Sir William Pepperell, a certificate of what number of soldiers was received from this colony, into the garrison of Louisbourg ; of the time of their arrival there, and discharge from thence ; as also, how long the colony's sloop Tartar was employed in the expedition against Cape Breton.

And His Honor, the Governor, is hereby also requested to procure all such other vouchers and certificates, as can be obtained in this colony, and are necessary for proving the account of the charges the colony has been at in assisting and forwarding the reduction of Cape Breton, &c., and to transmit the

whole to the colony's agent, in Great Britain, as soon as possible.

And it is also voted, that Stephen Hopkins, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed to wait on Sir William Pepperell, in order to get the certificates by the government desired of him.

Voted, that the captains of the several companies raised in this colony, for the intended expedition against Canada, be, and they are hereby empowered to give furloughs to such of their soldiers as desire the same, and can be trusted for any space of time, not exceeding a fortnight, at one time ; at the end or expiration of such furlough, the said soldier or soldiers, so favored, shall be obliged to appear before his captain, or some other officer of his company, at such place as his said captain shall appoint.

And it is also voted, that such soldiers as the captains, aforesaid, cannot confide in, nor think them fit to be trusted with furloughs, or so many of them as the committee of war shall think proper, shall be kept at Fort George, with one of the officers of said companies, who is to take the entire care of them there ; where they shall be maintained out of the colony's stores ; and when any of the said soldiers shall return, upon the expiration of their furloughs, he or they, shall have and receive what the government allows for his or their subsistence ; and the lieutenant colonel is hereby empowered to appoint an officer to take care of such soldiers as shall be kept at Fort George, from time to time ; and that the captains of each respective company do render to the lieutenant colonel an account of the circumstances his company is in ; and the lieutenant colonel to the committee of war, once a fortnight.

God save the King.

*Gov. Shirley to Gov. Greene.*

Boston, November 4th, 1746.

Sir:—I have now the pleasure of informing Your Honor of the French fleet's quitting the coast of Nova Scotia, and going off to the West Indies, and the Canadians breaking up their camp before the garrison at Annapolis Royal.

But notwithstanding this, as service of the greatest importance remains yet to be done in Nova Scotia, viz. : taking or destroying all the enemy's magazines of warlike stores and provisions, at Minas and Chicknecto ; taking all the grain in the country, (except what is wanted by the inhabitants for their present use,) for His Majesty's service, and the same with respect to their cattle ; by which means, all the inhabitants and Indians might be disarmed ; and the latter, together with the Canadians, (in case they should return next spring,) be without subsistence, from the country ; driving off the Canadians, designed to winter in Minas or Chicknecto, and distressing the Indians there ; among whom, a very bad sickness prevails, which has already swept off hundreds of them ; visiting Chebucto, and seeing what footsteps the French have left there ; calling the malcontents, who are the most obnoxious among the French inhabitants, to an account for their joining or open correspondence with the enemy, and destroying the settlements of such of them as shall abscond ; and perhaps recovering some of the prize vessels and goods taken from the English.

By all which means, the Canadians would be discouraged from renewing their attempts next spring ; the friends to His Majesty's government in that Province confirmed in their fidelity, the abettors of the French interest diminished, and deterred from open or even secret acts of hostility, and the Indians very much harassed and disabled from giving the enemy the usual assistance ; so that if the Canadians should repeat their visit in the spring, they would not be able to make any progress in the country, to the disadvantage of the garrison.

I say as all these services, which have so plain a tendency to settle the lasting security of the Province, remain yet to be done ; and this fall is the only opportunity for doing it ; and I am informed by persons well acquainted with the seasons in Nova Scotia, that the winter is not yet too far advanced, for doing this with a probable prospect of the men's returning afterwards, this winter.

I have determined to send the reinforcement of five companies, which I proposed before my receiving the last advices ; some of which, are already sailed, and others go to-day, and the rest in two days, at farthest ; and I hope Your Honor, if your three companies are not already sailed, will order them to proceed forthwith.

If our endeavors are attended with success at this critical conjuncture, as I hope they will, it will be a most beneficial service for His Majesty and the colonies.

I am in haste ; the post waiting.

Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,  
W. SHIRLEY.

To Governor Greene.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 27th day of January, 1746-7.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the inhabitants of the lands lately taken into this colony, by the settlement of the eastern boundaries, into five townships.

Whereas, His Majesty has been graciously pleased by his royal determination, to settle the eastern boundaries of this colony, whereby several large tracts of land, and a great number of inhabitants are taken under the jurisdiction of this government; and it being absolutely necessary for the well governing the said people, that the said tracts of land, with the inhabitants thereon, be set off and incorporated into townships, and the same being conveniently situated for the making of five townships;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, it is enacted, that the aforesaid tracts of land, with the inhabitants thereon, be set off and incorporated into five towns in the following manner, viz.:

All that part, which heretofore has been called Bristol, with the inhabitants thereon, be set off and incorporated into a township, by the name of Bristol; and that that part which was heretofore [known] as part of Tiverton, with a part of Dartmouth and Freetown, adjoining thereto, be incorporated into a township, by the name of Tiverton; and that part which has heretofore been a part of Little Compton, and a part of Dartmouth, thereto adjoining, be incorporated into a township, by the name of Little Compton; and that the line which formerly

divided Tiverton from Little Compton, be extended easterly, to the colony line, and the whole to be dividing lines between said towns; and that part which has heretofore been a part of Swansey and Barrington, with a small part of Rehoboth there-to adjoining, with the inhabitants thereon, be incorporated into a township, by the name of Warren; and that part which has been commonly called and known by the name of the Gore of Land, with the inhabitants thereon, be into a township, by the name of Cumberland; and that the inhabitants of each respective town, for the time being, shall have and enjoy equal liberties and privileges with the other towns in this colony, agreeably to our charter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a special justice of the peace, be chosen and appointed in each of the above mentioned towns, to keep His Majesty's peace; and to call the inhabitants of the respective towns together, by a warrant, to meet on the second Tuesday in February next, to choose such town officers as are directed by the laws of this colony; and also deputies, to represent said towns at the adjournment of this Assembly.

And that the said justices be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, and to continue till the next session of the Assembly; and that the general treasurer furnish each of the above mentioned towns with a colony law book; and that the secretary send to each of the said towns a copy of the late act of Assembly, directing the manner of making freemen, and regulating the method of voting; and that said law books and copies of said act, be delivered to the above mentioned justices as soon as conveniently may be.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every man, inhabiting within the above mentioned towns of Bristol, Tiverton, Little Compton, Warren and Cumberland, who is possessed of lands or real estate, sufficient by the laws of this colony, to qualify him for a freeman, and the eldest sons of all such freeholders, be, and they are hereby declared freemen of the respective towns, and also of this colony; and

to govern themselves in voting, agreeably to the laws of this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the following persons be, and they are hereby chosen and appointed special justices of the peace, for the above mentioned towns, viz.:

Jonathan Peck, Esq., for the town of Bristol; John Manchester, Esq., for the town of Tiverton; William Richmond, Esq., for the town of Little Compton; Matthew Allen, Esq., for the town of Warren; and Job Bartlett, Esq., for the town of Cumberland.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston January, 5, 1746-7.

Sir:—This will be delivered you by Lieut. Wilkinson, from whom, as well as by a letter from Col. Kinnicutt, I am sorry to learn that the levies of your government are at length, by a train of cross accidents and disasters, prevented from going upon His Majesty's service to Annapolis Royal; for which, both your government and the troops have shown so ready a disposition; I can't say but that I think after having been so greatly weakened, and reduced by sickness and deaths, as I understood the three companies are, that your officers judged right in not venturing them upon a passage to Annapolis in so extreme and wintry a season as the present has proved; since, in all probability, it would have destroyed many of the soldiers, and the few that had survived it, might have been rather a burthen than of service, to the garrison; I heartily wish those of them, who are sailed for Newport, a safe arrival there; and that the sick among them, and those left at Martha's Vineyard, may recover.

Mr. Wilkinson informs me that some deserters from your levies are suspected to be concealed in this government; if there is any possibility of getting at them, I will take care they shall be secured for you, upon my being apprised when any of them may be apprehended.

I took the first opportunity of laying before the Assembly of this Province, the copy of His Majesty's order in council, for settling the boundary line between the Province and colony, together with the act of your government, appointing commissioners to join with those of this government, in running and marking the line accordingly; and of recommending to them forthwith to choose commissioners for that purpose; which I hope they will readily do. When it is done, I shall transmit you the first notice of it, that I can.

I am, with due regard sir,

Your Honor's obedient humble servant,

To His Excellency, Gov. Greene.

W. SHIRLEY.

P. 8. I hope that eight hundred of the Massachusetts levies are all, long before this, safely arrived at Annapolis, with a great quantity of snow shoes; as also the two New Hampshire companies; and that they may be a force sufficient for the purposes of His Majesty's service there.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 17th day of February, 1746-47.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Thomas Ward was chosen secretary, for the remaining part of the current year, in the room of the late James Martin, Esq., deceased, and engaged, according to law.

His Honor, the Governor, presented two letters from His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Massachusetts, for the consideration of this Assembly; who having duly weighed the same, are of opinion, that (notwithstanding they are desirous of contributing every thing in their power for His Majesty's service,) this colony cannot, as the case is circumstanced, comply with His Excellency's request, for sending the troops of His Majesty, now in this government, to Hudson's River, to join the other troops there assembled, in order to make an attempt against Crown Point, because the colony has no provision or stores on said river, and the navigation thereof, is impracticable at this season of the year; neither can the troops be sent to Annapolis Royal, as desired by His Excellency, in His second letter, because the time by him proposed for their arrival there, is so very short, that it is impossible to procure transports, provisions, stores, &c., timely; and also, the colony's sloop is much out of repair, and no hands belong to her, the late crew being discharged; so that the troops, if sent, must go without convoy; moreover, the troops them-



selves, are in no capacity of going, being greatly enfeebled, and lessened\* in numbers by sickness and desertion, in the late attempt to go to Annapolis.

An Act incorporating the towns of Bristol and Warren into one distinct county, and for establishing a court of general sessions of the peace, and inferior court of common pleas, in said county, and ascertaining the times and places of holding the same.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the towns of Bristol and Warren, be, and they are hereby incorporated and made a county; and shall be called and known by the name of the county of Bristol; and Bristol shall be the county town.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be held and kept yearly and every year, for said county, in the town of Bristol, on the first Tuesday in July, and first Tuesday in January, a court of general sessions of the peace, by the justices of the peace, of said county, any five of whom shall be a quorum; and an inferior court of common pleas, by five skillful persons, to be annually appointed by the General Assembly; any three of whom, shall be a quorum; said courts to be held in the same manner, and to have the same power in all respects, as the other courts of general sessions of the peace, and inferior courts of common pleas in this colony have.

And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that the town of Bristol shall send to the said court of general sessions of peace, seven grand jurors; and to both said courts, six petit jurors; and the town of Warren shall send six grand jurors to the said court of general sessions of the peace, and six petit jurors, to both said courts.

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\* On the 10th February, Gov. Shirley, wrote to Gov. Greene, that the government of New York had determined not to send an expedition against Crown Point this winter, and that he had, in consequence, countermanded his orders to the Massachusetts troops.—J. E. B.

And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that there be annually chosen by the General Assembly of this colony, one clerk for said court of general sessions of the peace, and inferior court of common pleas, and one sheriff for said county.

An Act for annexing the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton to the county of Newport, and Cumberland to the county of Providence.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton be annexed to the county of Newport; and that the town of Cumberland be annexed to the county of Providence.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, February 7, 1747.

Sir:—By my last advices from Albany, I find the condition of the troops of the Southern colonies, now on Hudson's River, as to their state of health and numbers, and the strong disposition of the Indians of the Six Nations to join with us in the attempt against Crown Point, and the danger of utterly losing these Nations, and their falling off to the French, (which will be of the most fatal consequence to all the Northern English colonies,) to be such, that I am now fixed in my resolution to push forward this enterprise with all imaginable diligence; and as the government of Connecticut has declined to join their forces with ours, which will much lessen the numbers we expected, I must earnestly desire Your Honor to send forward to our rendezvous on Hudson's River, as many of the troops of your government in His Majesty's pay, as you can furnish out for this service.

The success of this enterprise being of the utmost importance, I trust you will do every thing in your power to promote it.

You have herewith enclosed, a copy of Mr. Johnson's letter to Mr. Lydius, and of the advice of our Assembly to me, in this affair.

I am, sir, Your Honor's very humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq.

*Sir William Johnson, to Mr. John H. Lydius.*

Mount Johnson, January 26, 1746-7.

Sir:—By yours, received last night, by Brant, I find you intend shortly to leave for Boston; and as I cannot have the pleasure of seeing you before you set off, I wish you a prosperous journey, and safe return.

Two days ago, I received a letter from Mr. Clinton, telling me the forwardness of the New England troops, and desiring me to prepare as many Indian warriors as possible, to assist our forces in the reduction of Crown Point, which I heartily wish to see; and should not make the least doubt of it, were our people so active as our neighbors, the New Englanders, who daily set us good examples, had we the grace to follow it.

I have now sent several of my officers among the Upper Nations, to prepare them, but have fixed on no certain time, fearing a disappointment; I had the two next castles assembled yesterday, and do assure you that nothing could give me more pleasure, than to see the willingness they showed, of joining us, whenever required; the sooner they say, the better; for they are almost in despair, or out of patience so long waiting.

I make not the least doubt of bringing as many in the field as will be sufficient for that enterprise; I only wish our forces were all so ready and willing. I am much hurried; so have only time to assure you of my best wishes for you, Mrs. Lydius, &c.; and am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WM. JOHNSON.

To Mr. John H. Lydius, at Albany.

*Gov. Shirley to Gov. Greene.*

Boston, February 9, 1746-7.

Sir:—I have this morning received advices from Lieut. Governor Mascarene, that Mons'r Rawson, who was posted at Manis, with above six hundred Canadians, and Indians, was, upon the arrival of the reinforcement sent from hence, retired to Sekenecta; and Col. Noble, with a body of about five hundred men, consisting principally of some of those troops I sent from hence, is now at Manis; but the reports of the number of the enemy (being represented as much superior to Col. Noble,) makes him cautious of pushing them without some further reinforcement.

I am informed that the enemy will not be able to get off before April; and I hope our troops will be strong enough to hinder their retreat till the English can have some further strength from these colonies.

It appears to me, by what advices I have had, that if it had not been for the misfortune that happened to the companies from your colony, and my last company, bound to Annapolis Royal, who were cast away at Mont Desert, and above one half of them drowned and frozen; and the New Hampshire company, under Capt. Mitchell, (instead of returning to Annapolis, from St. Johns, according to order,) going back to New Hampshire, our troops would have either entirely drove the French forces into the woods, where they must perish if they stay long, or have made them all prisoners of war.

And as Your Honor is sensible this is a matter of the utmost importance to the safety of Nova Scotia, and for securing our conquest of Cape Breton, and the season is advancing when the navigation in those parts will be much safer than it has been in the months past, I must earnestly desire Your Honor, that in case you find any difficulty in sending your troops in the King's pay to Crown Point, you would not fail of sending them as soon as they may be got ready, to Annapolis Royal, for this necessary service.

And I must urge this with greater importunity, because (having already upwards of seven hundred men in Nova Scotia,) I am not able to spare a man more; the remainder of our troops, being absolutely necessary to be employed for the reduction of Crown Point, to which place I have given orders that they should march with all possible expedition. I shall also press the Governor of New Hampshire to order the companies (raised there for the expedition,) to Annapolis Royal.

If we can make ourselves strong enough, I hope your soldiers will be detained but a short time upon this service. However, I shall continue my troops here, in hopes of a reinforcement from you.

The ready spirit which the government of Rhode Island showed, for assisting in this important service, upon my first application to Your Honor for that purpose, leaves no room to doubt, but that they will exert it now with equal vigor, and not let slip so fair an opportunity of employing the same companies, or what may be left of them, so beneficially for His Majesty's service, and the general good of the colonies; and so acceptably to His Majesty, as the sending these companies to Annapolis Royal, would be, at this most critical juncture.

If the troops arrive there by the second or beginning of the third week in March, it would be in time, though the sooner the better; they need not stay at Annapolis long.

I am with due respect, sir,

Your very humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. William Greene.

*Gov. Greene to Gov. Shirley.*

Providence, 20th February, 1746-7.

Sir:—Immediately on the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 7th current, pressing that His Majesty's troops, in this colony, might be sent to Hudson's River, in order to join those of the Southern colonies, &c., in an attempt against Crown Point, I issued out my warrant, to summon the General Assembly to meet at this place on the 17th instant; but before they met, I had the honor of Your Excellency's letter, of the 9th, expressing your desire, that the troops here, may be sent to Annapolis Royal, if I should find any difficulty in sending them to Crown Point.

The Assembly met accordingly, when I recommended both of Your Excellency's letters to their consideration; but they came to a resolution, that, as this colony has no provisions nor stores on Hudson's River, and the navigation of that river is impracticable at this season of the year, it is not possible to send the troops thither, as desired.

As for sending them to Annapolis, the Assembly is of opinion, that the time proposed by Your Excellency for them to be at Annapolis, is so short, that we cannot procure transports, provisions, &c., in time.

What increases this great difficulty, is, that the troops are greatly enfeebled and lessened in numbers, by sickness and desertion, in the late attempt to go to Annapolis. Moreover, the people of the colony's sloop are discharged, and the vessel itself so much out of repair, that it cannot go for convoy; for which reasons, the troops cannot be sent to Annapolis at this juncture.

This is the determination of the General Assembly, which I am directed to inform Your Excellency of, and am, with due respects,

Your Excellency's very humble servant,  
WILLIAM GREENE.

To Governor Shirley.

*The Secretary of Massachusetts Bay to Governor Greene.*

Boston, March 5, 1747.

Sir:—I am directed by the General Court here, to apprise Your Honor of the advice we have from our agent, by the ship from London, yesterday, that a grant was made in Parliament, on Friday, the 4th of December last, of £10,200,000, for the current year; £800,000 of which, is for paying the charge of taking and keeping Cape Breton, by the people of New England; and the charge of raising forces for the expedition that was designed against Canada.

There have been some proposals and endeavors, that the payment might be made by debentures; nothing seems so likely to prevent it, as applying the money granted to redeem and finish our fatal paper currency, so absolutely necessary to the establishment and preservation of justice in our commerce, and so much for the interest of Great Britain, as well as ourselves.

This, we are very sensible cannot be done effectually, without the meeting of the several Assemblies, interested in this grant; it is therefore hoped that Your Honor will call your General Court together as soon as may be, that the meeting of commissioners may not be put off beyond the time proposed, viz.: the 12th of April next, in order to their being assured at home very soon, that this money will be so wisely applied, and for a purpose so absolutely inconsistent with debentures, or any dilatory methods of payment.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

JOSIAH WILLARD.

To the Hon. Governor Greene.

P. S. The agent's letter was dated the 10th December, and sent to Portsmouth a few days before the ship sailed.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1746, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in 1747, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act for suspending the execution of Nathaniel Alcock. (May.)

An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act for regulating appeals to His Majesty in council, in Great Britain." (July.)

An Act directing the manner of admitting freemen, and for preventing bribery and corruption in the election of public officers, in the colony. (August.)

An Act in amendment of an act, for preventing bribery and corruption. (September.)

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 5th day of May, 1747.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Abraham Redwood,

Mr. Philip Greene,

Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Jeoffrey Watson.

Mr. James Arnold,

Mr. Sam'l Wickham, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The persons whose names here follow, having taken the oath, or affirmation, prescribed by the law of this colony against bribery and corruption, are hereby admitted to give their votes to choose officers for their respective towns; and also to give their votes for the choice of the general officers in the colony.

[Here follow many hundred names, which are omitted.]

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1747.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Samuel Wickham,  
Capt. Walter Chaloner,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. John Channing,  
Capt. Jonathan Nichols,  
Mr. James Sheffield.

*Providence.*

Mr. George Brown,  
Mr. Elisha Brown,  
Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
Mr. Ezekiel Warner.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Benjamin Tucker,  
Mr. Joseph Martin,  
Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.,  
Mr. Benjamin Hickers.

*Warwick.*

Mr. John Greene,  
Col. Benoni Waterman,  
Mr. John Holdon,  
Mr. Joseph Lippitt.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock,  
Capt. William Pendleton.

*New Shoreham.*

Capt. Robert Hull,  
Mr. John Littlefield.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. Edward Dyre, Jr.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Hassard,  
Mr. Benjamin Peckham, Jr.

*East Greenwich.*

Capt. Joseph Nichols,  
Mr. John Spenser,

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Thomas Carr,  
Mr. John Martin.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Lapham,  
Mr. Jonathan Arnold.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. John Fisk.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere.  
Mr. Abraham Tourtellott.

## DEPUTIES.

*Charlestown.*

Col. Joseph Stanton,  
Capt. William Clarke, Jr.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
Mr. John Spencer, 2d.

*Coventry.*

Capt. Thomas Stafford,  
Capt. Abel Potter.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Weight,  
Mr. Benoni Gardner.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Robert Nichols,  
Mr. John Taylor.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Thomas Greene.

*Tiverton.*

Capt. John Manchester,  
Mr. John Howland.

*Little Compton.*

Capt. John Hunt,  
Mr. William Wilbore.

*Warren.*

Mr. Matthew Allen,  
Mr. Samuel Miller.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
Mr. Samuel Bartlett.

Mr. Sam'l Wickham, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Haszard,  
Capt. George Wanton,  
Mr. William Rhodes,  
Mr. Jonathan Randall,  
Mr. Benjamin Tucker,

Mr. Gideon Durfey,  
Mr. Joseph Edmonds,  
Mr. Ephraim Gardner,  
Mr. Jeremiah Niles.  
Mr. William Richmond.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. John Gardner.



It is voted and resolved, that the colony's sloop *Tartar*, be immediately put in commission, and manned with ninety able bodied men, including officers; and that their wages be as followeth, to wit:

Those of the officers, the same as when last stated; those of such of the foremost men, as are seamen, at £14 per month; and such others of them, as are not seamen, at £12 per month.

And that the said sloop shall cruise in consort with the Connecticut colony sloop, according to the order and instructions which shall from time to time be given the captain; and His Honor, the Governor, is hereby requested to give His Honor, the Governor of Connecticut, information hereof, forthwith.

It is voted and resolved, and the captain of Fort George is hereby directed to enlist, as soon as may be, thirty men, to serve as soldiers, at said fort, upon the same monthly wages, as were allowed the soldiers there last year, with an allowance of twenty shillings per week, board wages, for each of them; and in case a sufficient number of men be not enlisted, in fifteen days, from the rising of this Assembly, the field officers of the county of Newport shall have granted them a warrant from His Honor, the Governor, and thereby cause so many men as will make up and complete that number, to be impressed in the county of Newport, for that purpose.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, May 18, 1747.

Sir:—This goes to inform Your Honor, that by despatches I have received from Albany and Northampton, I find that the Indians of the Six Nations are generally spirited to go to war against the French of Canada; that divers parties are now out, and others daily offering themselves, which is a point the governments of New England (especially those of the Massachusetts and Connecticut,) have been laboring to carry ever since the first of the war; and if this spirit be duly cherished and properly managed and directed, it may, by the blessing of God, prove of unspeakable benefit for the safety of these colonies.

I refer Your Honor to an extract from Col. Stoddard's letter to me, for a more particular account of this affair; only I would observe, that Col. Johnson and Mr. Lydius, whose influence on the Indians has brought about this great event, are un-

der such engagements, as they are not able to fulfill without proper supplies from these governments; and if for want of that, the Indians should suffer any disappointment, it is more than probable that they will be disgusted at their being left in the lurch by us, and will fall entirely into the interests of the French, which will be more fatal to these colonies than any thing that has yet befallen us.

Now, as there is no General Court in being in this Province, we can do nothing, at present, for the furnishing these gentlemen; though our General Court has entrusted Mr. Lydius with this affair, and have undertaken to supply him with a considerable sum for this service, and he has made his drafts for the payment, which will be done; but the parties of Indians come so fast upon him and Mr. Johnson, to be fitted out for this service, that what they will receive at present from this government, will be a very inconsiderable part of what they are under engagements for; and the gentlemen seem to apprehend that there is great danger of their being ruined, and the common cause suffering the greatest damage that we can conceive of, unless they be relieved from these governments.

I doubt not, sir, but your General Court, will, in this critical conjuncture, readily make proper supplies for the encouragement of the Indians of the Six Nations, for prosecuting this war, and for keeping these gentlemen in heart till an agreement may be made between the governments to apportion the charge that has arisen or may arise in this important affair, among themselves; and I shall lay this matter before our General Court, at their first meeting, and am fully persuaded they will cheerfully fall into all the measures necessary for promoting this important interest.

You will please to lay these matters before your Assembly as soon as possible, and let me know their resolutions on this affair.

I am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Tuesday in June, 1747.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Jeremiah Niles, Esq., Samuel Wickham, Esq., and Mr. John Channing, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to draw up the draft of an answer

to the letters written by His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Massachusetts, to this government, requesting the colony to bear a part of the charge and expense of encouraging and fitting out the Six Nations of Indians, to prosecute the war against the French; and therein to insert the reasons why this government declines entering into the same; which letter, when by the said committee so drawn, His Honor, the Governor, is requested to sign, and expedite to Mr. Shirley.

His Honor, the Governor, is desired by this Assembly, to write and send to Sir William Pepperell, and endeavor to procure of him a certificate of the number of soldiers which were received from this colony into the garrison of Louisbourg; of the time of their arrival there, and discharge from thence; and also, how long the colony's sloop Tartar was employed in the expedition against Cape Breton, and retained in the service, after its reduction.

His Honor is also requested to procure all such other certificates and vouchers as can be obtained in this colony, as may be necessary for rendering the accounts of charges the colony hath been at (respecting the aforesaid expedition,) clear and plain; and when the said certificates, vouchers, &c., are procured, His Honor is requested to transmit the same, duly authenticated, to Mr. Partridge, the colony's agent, in Great Britain, as soon as possible.

And Stephen Hopkins, Esq., is hereby appointed and desired to wait on Sir William Pepperell, with His Honor, the Governor's letter, and to exert himself to procure the aforementioned certificates.

The commissioners appointed by the General Assembly of this colony, to run and mark out the bounds of the colony, eastward, toward the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, having performed that service, and made report to the Assembly, of their doings thereon, at a former session, which was accepted, now presented an account of the expense they were at, in performing the service, and prayed that they and the persons by them employed therein, might have satisfaction made them, out

of the general treasury; which account, amounting to £500 18s. 4d., being duly examined, is allowed by this Assembly.

And it is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said sum shall be paid out of the general treasury, to Mr. James Honeyman, Jr., to, and for the use of himself and the others concerned; each of whom, shall have out of the same, the sum set against his name.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, June 29th, 1747.

Sir:—This will inform Your Honor that this government, taking into consideration the great danger which all His Majesty's colonies in North America are in (as well as their own particular danger,) of being in time destroyed by the French, and Indians, under their influence, without a firm union, between themselves, for their mutual defence, and for weakening and destroying the power of the enemy; and more especially for driving the French from the borders of the Province of New York; and this Province has appointed commissioners to meet in a congress, to be held at New York, on the 2d day of September next, with such commissioners as may be appointed by all His Majesty's governments, from New Hampshire to Virginia, inclusively; then and there to treat and agree upon measures for encouraging the Indians of the Six Nations vigorously to prosecute their incursions on the enemy; as also to agree upon the method and proportion of raising men and money, for carrying on the war, both offensively and defensively; and to project and settle such enterprises and plans of operation as the common interest shall require.

Your Honor will, I doubt not, duly consider the great importance of this matter, and represent it in the strongest light to your Assembly, that they may see not only how deeply His Majesty's interest in general is concerned, but that their own particular safety will be soon much affected by the growing power of the French; and more especially the hazard there is, that they will bring the Six Nations into their interest, in case they are not forthwith most vigorously supported by the English, without which, it will be a very little while before the Southern as well as the Northern colonies will be exposed to their fury. And therefore I would earnestly recommend it to the several governments separately to make provision without delay, for the encouragement of the Six Nations, till the congress can be held; this government having already advanced many large sums of money, and still continuing to do more for this service. Your Honor will be pleased to give me seasonable advice of the resolution of your government on this most important affair.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient and most humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton, Esq.

P. S. I am to acknowledge the receipt of the favor of your answer to my last letter.

*Gov. Wanton to Gov. Shirley.*

Newport, July 3, 1747.

Sir :—I received your favor of 29th June, and now acquaint Your Excellency, that it is not in my power to do any thing otherwise than to represent the matters therein contained, in as strong terms as I can, to our General Assembly, which will meet by adjournment, the second Tuesday in August ; and then I shall be capable of acquainting Your Excellency of their resolutions thereupon.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

GIDEON WANTON.

To Governor Shirley.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Tuesday of August, 1747.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act for incorporating the north part of the town of Charlestown, in King's county, into a township, the same to be distinguished and known by the name of Richmond.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the town of Charlestown, in the county of Kings county, &c., be divided into two towns, by a river that runs across said town, known by the name of Pawcatuck River ; all the lands to the southward of said river, shall retain the name of Charlestown ; and that all the lands to the northward of said river, be, and hereby is incorporated into a township, by the name of Richmond ; and to have and enjoy the like privileges, as other towns in this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each of said towns shall have, and receive a proportion of the money in, and belonging to the treasury of said Charlestown,

according to the money for which the lands in each town is mortgaged to the colony ; and that all justices of the peace and military officers, living within the bounds of said new town, called Richmond, retain their authority, and act as such therein, until the next general election ; and that the eldest justice of each of said towns is hereby empowered to grant forth their warrants to some proper officer, whom they shall appoint, to warn the inhabitants of said towns to assemble and meet together in some proper place, in said town, on Friday, the 28th day of this instant August, in order to choose deputies, to represent them at the October session of this Assembly ; and also, to choose town officers for said towns, agreeably to the laws of this colony ; and that each town shall send one grand juror, and one petit juror, to each of the inferior and superior courts, in Kings county.

It is voted, that the commissary be, and he is hereby ordered to draw up an account of all the charges and expenses the colony hath been at in raising three companies for the expedition intended against Canada, (excepting the bounty of £50 to a man,) and present the same to Edward Scott, Samuel Wickham and Peter Bours, Esqs., who are hereby appointed a committee to inspect and examine the same ; and that the commissary give his affidavit or engagement to said account, and procure all such vouchers and other papers and evidences as shall be necessary, to establish the credit thereof ; and that when the business is perfected, the whole shall be sent to the colony's agent in Great Britain.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby empowered to draw bills of exchange, payable to the agent, for the amount of said account, on the lords commissioners of the treasury, or others, on whom the payment thereof shall be incumbent ; and that the money when received, shall remain in the agent's hands until the General Assembly shall order the disposal thereof.

And His Honor, the Governor, is also hereby empowered to draw bills on the agent for so much money as the colony hath advanced to the officers and soldiers of the said three compa-

nies, towards their wages, and for the soldiers' clothing; and that said bills be made payable to those merchants in the town of Newport, that lent the colony the said money.

Whereas, Sarah Ninegret, widow of George Ninegret, late sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians, deceased, and mother and natural guardian to Thomas Ninegret, an infant, the present sachem of said tribe of Indians, with Tobey Coheys, Samuel Niles, John Trask, William Sachem, Ephraim Coheys, Moses Hammond, James Niles and Harry Copper, who were appointed by the said tribe of Indians, councillors for the present sachem, Thomas Ninegret, in behalf of this sachem, themselves and people of said tribe of Indians, represented to this Assembly, that they, at the last sitting of this Assembly, in May last, did prefer a petition to said Assembly, setting forth the deplorable condition they are brought to, by means of some gentlemen, namely: Joseph Whipple, Daniel Coggeshall, Samuel Perry, John Spencer and David Anthony, Esqs., who, as they are informed, were appointed by the General Assembly, trustees, at its session, A. D. 1746, for the management of the rents and profits of the estate, said by some to be submitted to this government by the late Ninegret, sachem, deceased, in the year 1713; but without the desire, consent, request or knowledge of the said Sarah, and the said councillors or sachem, which was always usual, and such appointment was always at the request of the sachem and his council; and having set forth in said petition, that the said trustees, without the knowledge and consent of the sachem or any of the councillors, have leased out the land, which was always kept and reserved for the tribe of Indians, for planting of corn and raising other necessaries for their support.

And the said Sarah and councillors further declared, that it is not only their fields and improvements that they have fenced, and have been at great labor and charge in making said fences that are rented out from them; but also, as they are credibly informed, the wood land, which was always kept and reserved for the tribe of Indians for fire wood; and also the sachem's cedar swamp is rented out, which was always

kept and reserved for the tribe of Indians, to cut stuff and sell the same ; and the said Sarah and councillors apprehend that when the General Assembly appointed the above named trustees, for the care and management of the rents and profits of the estate submitted to this government, in the year 1713, by the late Ninegret, sachem, deceased, that the General Assembly had no design nor intent to give the said trustees power to lease out the sachem's land without his knowledge and consent, and the knowledge and advice of his council ; and they likewise apprehended that the submission made by the sachem in the year 1713, (if any was made by him in that year,) doth not give the said trustees or any others, power to lease out the sachem's land without his knowledge and consent ; they also informed this Assembly that the gentlemen who were trustees to the late sachems, deceased, never leased out any of the said sachems' land without first having the leave and consent of the sachem and his council ; and as this Assembly have it in their power to relieve them in this, their distressed condition, for they know not, as the case is, where to go, nor how to subsist themselves, and must be unavoidably starved without relief;—

Therefore, they humbly prayed that this Assembly would take their circumstances into consideration, and dismiss the above named trustees from their trusteeship, and make void all the leases given by said trustees of the sachem's land ; and that the Assembly would allow and accept of their known and trusty friends, Col. Joseph Stanton, Capt. George Wanton and Capt. John Frye, to be trustees for the care and management of the sachem's estate, for the sachem's interest ; the last named gentlemen having been trustees to the late sachem ; and the said Sarah and councillors were knowing to the proceedings and management in that affair, and that their proceedings gave good satisfaction to the sachem, and a general satisfaction to the tribe of Indians, &c.

Upon consideration whereof, it is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said Sarah and councillors, be, and it is hereby granted ; and that the said Joseph Whipple, Daniel Cog-



geshall, Samuel Perry, John Spencer and David Anthony, be, and they are hereby removed from their aforesaid office of trustees; and that all the leases by them made, of the sachem's land, be, and they are hereby declared and made null and void; and the aforesaid Col. Joseph Stanton, Capt. Geo. Wanton and Capt. John Frye, are appointed trustees, for the care and management of the sachem's estate, for his interest.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the last Monday in August, 1747.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

[There was no business of a public nature, transacted at this session of the Assembly.]

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston August 20, 1747.

Sir:—I send now to inform Your Honor, that on the 16th inst. arrived here a flag of truce from Quebec, with one hundred and seventy-one English prisoners, belonging to this Province, and divers other of His Majesty's colonies in North America, &c., by which ship I received a letter\* from the Marquis Beauharnois, Governor of

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\* The letter from the Marquis of Beauharnois, transmitted by Gov. Shirley, is very long, and relates to the exchange of prisoners. It is exceedingly courteous in its tone, and acknowledges the kind attentions paid to the French prisoners, in Boston, by the authorities there. It appears that one of them, Lieut. La Groix, had broken his parole. Speaking of him, Gen. Beauharnois says, this gentleman, "by his services and good qualities, had merited some distinction from me; but I cannot but disapprove his having broken his parole, as you assure me he had done. He can blame nobody but himself, that he was put under a more close confinement. I am nevertheless obliged to you for your goodness to him, on my account. This particular he has not failed to inform me of."

Canada, a copy whereof, I now enclose; by perusing of which, you will understand that I wrote to him a letter, dated the 18th of March last, therein proposing a general exchange of prisoners, without having a regard to the inequality of numbers on either side; and that each Governor should bear the charge of the transportation of their own prisoners.

This I undertook (absolutely) only for myself, yet presuming it would be acceptable to all the rest of the English Governors; and in consequence of which, the said Governor of Canada has now released all the English prisoners with him, except a few that were not in such health as to allow them to be transported without danger; and that the said Governor does fully agree to my proposal, expecting that the other Governors will also come into this agreement, desiring that I should let him know their resolutions by the return of this flag of truce, which is limited to the term of fifteen days for his stay here, which will expire the last of this month.

Therefore, I must entreat Your Honor to send me your answer upon these points by this express, that I may forward it to the Governor of Canada, agreeably to his desire expressed to me in his letter; and as there are now, and may be hereafter, English prisoners belonging to Great Britain and other places, at a distance from these provinces, brought in by the flags of truce, it will be expected that your government will bear their part of this charge, so that it may not be wholly thrown upon this.

And I must further desire that you would appoint some agent here, who may from time to time answer for the charge of any English prisoners of your province, that may be released from captivity, in pursuance of this agreement, and brought in hither; and as there are now brought in this flag of truce six prisoners,\* that you would be pleased to take such measures, that in proportion to the number aforesaid, your province may bear their part of the charge of this flag of truce; you will also send me your answer respecting the Governor of Canada's proposal, as to the purchasing prisoners out of the Indians' hands.

I have likewise enclosed a copy of the agreement made for the hire of this flag of truce, which you will find to be 10,000 livres.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient and most humble servant,  
W. SHIRLEY.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday in October, 1747.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

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\* These prisoners were John Pike, Edward Tew, John Years, Gregory Cousins, Jacob Judah, and Samuel Sayers.

His Honor, the Governor, is hereby requested to write to Richard Partridge, Esq., the colony's agent in Great Britain, and desire that gentleman to send him over all his accounts with the colony, and the particulars of them, during the time he has been in the colony's service.

This Assembly having taken into consideration the extracts of His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle's letter, to Governor Shirley, respecting the dismissal of the troops, raised in America, for the expedition intended against Canada, together with the letter from Governor Shirley and Governor Knowles to our Governor, thereupon are of opinion as follows :

1st. That it will be proper, and His Honor, the Governor, is hereby requested to send, forthwith, unto their Excellencies, the enlistment and muster rolls of all the soldiers raised in this colony, for the expedition ; and all other papers His Honor may think necessary ; and that the whole be duly authenticated.

2d. That these troops being raised in consequence of a proclamation issued by the Governor, with the advice of the Assembly, they ought to be discharged, according to the tenor of that proclamation, and the true intent and meaning thereof.

3d. That, as it appears by the several extracts from the Duke of Newcastle's letter, the disbanding the troops raised for the aforesaid service, is wholly vested in their Excellencies ; the way and manner of doing it, and paying off the officers and soldiers, must be their proper province ; and His Honor, the Governor, is desired to inform their Excellencies of the sentiments of this Assembly.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1747, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in that year, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act for quieting possessions, and establishing titles of land within the towns of Bristol, Tiverton, Little Compton, Warren and Cumberland. (January.)

An Act for supplying the general treasury with the sum of £15,000, in bills of credit, of the new tenor. (February.)

An Act for the more regular establishing a superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, throughout the colony. (February.)

- An Act for regulating appeals to His Majesty, in council, in Great Britain, and for repealing the former act made for that purpose. (February.)
- An Act for settling the militia of the towns of Bristol, Tiverton, Little Compton, Warren and Cumberland. (February.)
- An Act in emendation of part of an act, passed in 1744, entitled "An act ascertaining what estate is ratable, and for proportioning the same in value." (June.)
- An Act directing how the value of ratable estates in this colony, shall be known, and each town's proportion thereof. (June.)
- An Act for the incorporation of Redwood Library, in Newport. (August.)
- An Act for appointing committees in each town in this colony, for the management of the colony's money, let, or to be let, on loan, in the several towns. (August.)
- An Act for the ease of prisoners for debt. (August.)
- An Act for increasing the fines and fees of petit jurors, and for punishing the towns which do not return their quota of jurors. (August.)
- An additional Act to prevent the spreading of the small pox, and other contagious diseases. (August.)
- An Act appointing coroners in each town in this colony. (August.)
- An Act apportioning the number of jurors in each town. (August.)
- An Act to empower the clerk of the superior courts to appoint a deputy. (August.)
- An Act for the better regulating the several ferries in the colony. (August.)
- An additional Act for the regulating and mending of highways. (October.)
- An Act for printing all the public laws, and acts that shall hereafter be made and passed by the General Assembly. (October.)
- An Act directing all the public laws now in force, in the colony, to be put in print. (October.)

*Governor Shirley and Admiral Knowles to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, October 10th, 1747.

Sir:—The enclosed is an extract from a letter of the Duke of Newcastle, to Governor Shirley, signifying His Majesty's commands to us, upon the several matters contained in it.

In obedience to which, we must desire you will be pleased to transmit to us, by return of this express, or as soon after as you can, muster rolls, or lists of the several officers and soldiers raised within your government for His Majesty's service, in the late intended expedition against Canada, (which His Majesty has laid aside for the present,) distinguishing the companies into which they were formed, with the respective times of every officer's engaging in His Majesty's service, and days on which the soldiers were enlisted into it, (which last may be best done by attested copies of the enlistments themselves;) also an account of the deaths of such of the officers and men which have happened since they entered into the service, with the respective times when they happened; as also of the dismissions and desertions of any of the soldiers, and times of their being discharged or deserting; together with an account of the furloughs which have been granted from time to time to the soldiers, and for what time; as also upon what command or duty, the officers and men have been respectively employed since the time of their entering into the service; together with a muster roll or list of the officers and effective private soldiers

now remaining in the service ; all which rolls, lists and accounts, we desire may be duly certified by the proper officers, under their hands, upon oath, taken before yourself, and attested by you ; also, that you would transmit to us an account of the charges of the clothing, arms and accoutrements of the soldiers, and of all other expenses which have been incurred on account of the expedition, and are not to be defrayed by the colony under your government, from the time of their being levied, to the time of your attesting the said accounts ; together with the vouchers thereof, all duly certified, upon oath, by the proper parties before you ; and a copy of the proclamation, issued by you for the encouragement of troops to enlist into the aforesaid service, with copies of the votes of your Assembly, touching the bounty and subsistence or allowance of provisions granted by them for the troops.

And we must further desire that you would, in pursuance of His Majesty's orders, communicate to us, your sentiments and opinion as to the manner of discharging these officers and soldiers, and upon what foot it may be best done, having due regard to His Majesty's command to us, for doing it in the most frugal manner, and his expectation in this affair ; and this we desire you will forthwith do, as a great charge is running on, till the soldiers shall be dismissed by us from this service.

We must also desire you, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, to recommend it to your Assembly to furnish such sums of money or credit as may be wanted, to pay off the soldiers ; which you will perceive, by the extracts of the Duke of Newcastle's letter, is to be provided for by Parliament, as soon as the accounts of the whole charge incurred by raising the levies, shall be transmitted to His Grace, by us ; and forthwith let us know your opinion of the success of such an application ; as also to let us know whether you have advanced any, and what sums of money to the officers and soldiers, or any of them, on account of their pay, and after what rate, and to what time they are paid in full.

And as you perceive, we are commanded by His Majesty to retain such a number of the American levies in his pay as we shall judge sufficient for the securing of Nova Scotia, against the enemy's attempts, until a reinforcement can be sent thither from Great Britain ; the preservation of which colony, is of the greatest importance to the safety and welfare of all His Majesty's northern colonies ; and also, that Mr. Shirley is ordered by His Majesty to complete his own, as well as Sir William Pepperell's, as likewise Lieut. Gen. Phillips's regiment out of those troops, we hope you will assist the officers who should be sent to raise recruits for those purposes, into your government, with your influence and authority, and contribute everything in your power to their success, and the promoting of His Majesty's service.

We think it clear, that the arms and accoutrements of the soldiers are to be returned ; and where the men have lost them, their value must be stopped out of their pay, or rather the several captains are to be called upon for the arms of their respective companies, and are chargeable therewith, which you will be pleased to consider.

And we must desire you will forthwith let us know your opinion of what pay it will be reasonable to allow the officers, as well as men, for their service.

We are, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servants

W. SHIRLEY,

CHARLES KNOWLES.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton.

*Gov. Shirley and Admural Knowles to Gov. Wanton.*

Extracts of a letter from His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, to Governor Shirley, dated Whitehall, May 30th, 1747.

“ His Majesty has been pleased to direct me to signify to you his pleasure that you should immediately appoint a meeting with Commodore Knowles, at such place as shall be agreed upon, and consider with him the present state of Nova Scotia and Louisbourg, and take the proper measures for the defence of those places.

“ It is His Majesty’s pleasure you should endeavor to complete from out of the Americans, who are now raised for His Majesty’s service, Sir William Pepperell’s regiment and your own.

“ Lieut. Gen. Phillips’s regiment, is, I am afraid, very weak. I will, however, send His Majesty’s orders to send what recruits can be got from hence; and you will also endeavor to have his regiment completed out of the Americans.

“ As it is His Majesty’s intention that the Americans should be immediately discharged, except only such few as are mentioned above, the manner of discharging them, the satisfaction of their time, &c., must be left to Commodore Knowles and yourself; the King, however, is persuaded you will do it as cheap as possible.

“ And as these American troops have done little or no service hitherto, it is to be hoped they will not expect to be paid in the manner they would have been, had they actually been employed on service; and as it seems highly reasonable that such of these troops as have remained in the Provinces, where they were enlisted, should be contented with less pay than such of them as may have marched into other Provinces.

“ When you and Mr. Knowles shall have met and fully considered the service to be undertaken, in the manner above directed, and shall have agreed what number of Americans it will be necessary to keep in pay for that purpose, it is His Majesty’s pleasure that you should procure an account of the whole expense incurred on account of the American troops from the time of their being levied, to the time of their discharge; and when the same shall be fully adjusted and liquidated, you will transmit it to me, with the proper vouchers, from the several Governors, that it may be laid before Parliament, to the end that provision may be made for the payment; and in the mean time, in order to prevent any complaint amongst the men that have been enlisted, (as well those that shall be discharged, as those that shall continue in service,) for want of immediate pay, you will recommend it to the Governors of the provinces, where these levies have been made, to procure credit from their respective Assemblies for that purpose, which His Majesty hopes may be done without difficulty.

“ It is also His Majesty’s pleasure, that Mr. Knowles and you should consider what number of Americans will be really wanted for the service above mentioned; and the King would have you retain as many as may be absolutely necessary for that service, and no more; and the King hopes that a small number of Americans, with His Majesty’s forces, which you have, may be sufficient for that purpose, as the expense of these Americans is very great; and as to the Americans in general, except only such as may be wanted for the service above mentioned, it is His Majesty’s pleasure, that you, in conjunction with Commodore Knowles, should thank them in such manner as you think proper, and immediately discharge them upon

the best and the cheapest foot you can ; and in order thereto, you will consult with the respective governors, upon the manner of closing it ; and you will transmit to His Majesty an immediate account of what you shall do therein."

N. B. This paragraph should have been inserted between the fourth and fifth paragraphs.

W. SHIRLEY,  
CHARLES KNOWLES.

To the Hon. Gideon Wanton.

*Governor Wanton to Governor Shirley and Admiral Knowles.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, 23d October, 1747.

Gentlemen :—When I wrote you, the 14th current, I was in hopes that I should have transmitted to you this week, the papers, accounts, &c., relating to the expedition against Canada, so far as this government hath been concerned therein, but have been since informed, that they cannot be completed till some time the next week.

I will take due care to communicate to the General Assembly of this colony, who are to sit on Wednesday next, at South Kingstown, your letter, together with the copy of the extracts that accompanied it ; but having been confined at home for several weeks past, with the gout, I fear I shall not be able to meet them there.

At our last choice, in August past, several towns thought fit to change their deputies, so that the lower house will consist of a majority of new members, with whose sentiments concerning the pay of the soldiers, being wholly unacquainted, I cannot possibly tell what they will resolve upon.

In October past, the committee of war took up about £11,000, in pursuance of an act of Assembly, authorizing them so to do, of some merchants of this town ; which sum being reduced into sterling money, at the rate of £750 this currency for £100 sterling, was paid to the officers and soldiers in part of their pay, and for their clothing, a few days before their embarkation for Annapolis.

The committee of war contracted with the said merchants to give them bills of exchange for sterling money, at the rate above mentioned, for the sum they advanced. This, in expectation of directions from Great Britain, was for some time delayed, and hath not yet been complied with.

But in August past, the General Assembly resolved that the accounts of the charges expended by this colony in raising three companies for the expedition against Canada, should be drawn out by the commissary, and sent with proper vouchers, to our agent ; and that the Governor should draw bills for the amount of said accounts, on the lords commissioners of the treasury, or on whom the payment of such bills may concern, payable to our agent ; and likewise bills on the agent for such money as hath been paid to the officers and soldiers of said companies, towards their wages, and for clothing, payable to the merchants who advanced it.

This money being paid to the officers and soldiers to induce them willingly to go to succor and relieve Annapolis, whither this government was strongly urged to send them by His Excellency, Governor Shirley, and the Honorable Admiral Warren, and the merchants who advanced it, being highly dissatisfied and uneasy at so long a delay, I beg you to recommend it in the strongest terms to His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, that the bills now to be drawn in their favor, be punctually paid. There was another payment made to the officers and soldiers in September

past, by order of the General Assembly, for which, not knowing the sum, I must refer to the accounts.

The extreme hardships the officers and soldiers underwent in their voyage towards Annapolis, by the shipwreck of the transport vessels, the severity of the season, and the sickness with which they were visited, of which many of them died, do in my opinion, entitle the survivors and the heirs of the deceased, to full pay; and I hope Your Excellencies will concur with me herein, and likewise that you will do this colony, which hath remarkably distinguished itself by its readiness and zeal to serve His Majesty, in the intended expedition against Canada, in giving a higher bounty to soldiers than any other government did, all the good offices in your power towards getting their charges reimbursed; and I promise myself you will the more readily do this, as great part of the charge was incurred by that fatal expedition intended for the relief of Annapolis, and undertaken at the instance of, and in deference to the directions of the gentlemen above mentioned.

I request the favor of you to let me know at what rate you fix the exchange between sterling money and New England currency.

As soon as the accounts, &c., are finished, I intend to send them per Col. Kinnicut; and in the mean time, am, gentlemen, &c.,

G. WANTON.

Wm. Shirley and Charles Knowles, Esqs.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston October 26, 1747.

Sir:—We are favored with your letter by the last post, and are glad to find there is a probability of our receiving a full answer to every particular part of ours of the 10th instant, because the expense to the crown now running on, is large, and His Majesty's service in the West Indies requires Mr. Knowles's presence there as soon as possible, to take upon him the command of His Majesty's ships at Jamaica, &c.

We must desire you would be pleased, in your next, to inform us when the levies, raised within your government, embarked for Annapolis Royal, and when they returned to Newport; and are, sir,

Your obedient, humble servants,

W. SHIRLEY.

To Governor Wanton.

P. S. Mr. Knowles being gone to Nantasket before this was copied, I am obliged to sign this, in behalf of us both.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, October 29th, 1747.

Sir:—Mr. Knowles and I have received your letter, dated the 23d instant, and as very great expense to the crown is running on, whilst the accounts of the forces raised within your government for the expedition against Canada, are preparing and adjusting, we think it our indispensable duty to send you the enclosed discharge of them, which we desire you would have published among the levies in such manner as you shall think proper.



You will perceive by the extract from the Duke of Newcastle's letter, which we enclosed in our last, that it is His Majesty's pleasure that the levies should be discharged in the most frugal manner; so that it is doubtless his expectation that all such of them as have not marched out of the province or colony where they were raised, should be paid off at the rate of the ordinary establishment for all His Majesty's regiments of foot, viz.:

The private men, at the rate of 6*d.* sterling per day; out of which, a stoppage must be made of 4*d.*, for their provisions; so that there will remain to be paid in money, to them, only 2*d.* per day. The corporals, after the rate of 8*d.* per day; out of which, a stoppage of 4*d.*, for their provisions; so that 4*d.* per day will remain to be paid in money, to them. The sergeants, after the rate of 1*s.* per day; out of which, a stoppage must be made of 4*d.*, for their provisions; so that there will remain 8*d.* per day, to be paid to them; and this is agreeably to the laws of their enlistment, in which no more is promised than the usual pay of His Majesty's troops, viz.:

Sixpence sterling per day, for a private man; 8*d.* for a corporal, and 12*d.* for a sergeant; out of which, they find themselves with provisions; and where provisions are found for them, as in the case of Lieut. Gen. Phillips's regiment, posted in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, a stoppage of 4*d.* per day, is made out of their pay for it; and in this case, it makes no difference with respect to the soldiers, that provisions have been generally found for them, at the charge of the colonies, where they were raised, and not the crown's; for that was not given them as the bounty of the several colonies, but was required by His Majesty from those colonies, to be done in ease of the national expense; and as what was their reasonable part of the charges to be incurred by the late intended expedition, set on foot chiefly for the immediate benefit of the several colonies concerned in it; and considering these troops have not marched out of their respective colonies, they have no pretence to expect more than what was promised them by the terms of their enlistment, and ought to be satisfied with that.

As to all those levies, which have marched out of the several provinces, where they were raised, except those sent to Nova Scotia, an allowance of 2*d.* per day extraordinary, to them, upon that consideration, will be sufficient; but as to those troops which were sent to Nova Scotia, or embarked for that province, though they had the misfortune, through shipwreck and sickness, not to arrive there, Mr. Knowles and I think they ought to have, on account of their service and hard duty, which occasioned them a greater expense of clothes and other things, than the rest of the troops had, 6*d.* over and above their provisions, from the time of their embarkation for Nova Scotia, till their return to their respective colonies; before and after which times a stoppage must be made out of their pay, for their provisions; and they receive no more in money, than 2*d.* per day; and the several levies are to be paid off accordingly, after those rates.

As to the method of paying off the men, when they are discharged; it appears to Mr. Knowles and me, that there are but two ways of doing it, viz.:

Either by procuring money, or credit from your Assembly, which we are commanded by His Majesty to recommend to you; or else, by borrowing money of the merchants, upon public bills, payable when the Parliament shall make provision for defraying the charges incurred on account of these levies; which bills, Mr. Knowles and I think should be sold for the highest exchange that can be got, for the benefit of the men; but not at a lower rate than £700 per cent. advance, in bills of the old tenor; or £800 of that currency, for £100 sterling; and if both

these methods should fail, then we can't see what more can possibly be done, than to give the men certificates of what is due to them, at the time of their being discharged, with a promise of paying them as soon as possible; but we hope there will be no necessity of having recourse to this method.

Mr. Knowles being very much engaged in the business of his squadron, which detains him great part of his time at Nantasket, has desired me to take upon myself the settling of the terms for paying the men off; and as he is under orders from the lords of admiralty, to repair to Jamaica, to take upon him the command of His Majesty's ships there, and designs to sail in about a fortnight, we shall be glad to proceed as far as possible in the execution of His Majesty's orders committed to our care, before he goes; and besides, if the accounts are not transmitted home in time to be laid before Parliament this session, it may occasion a delay in raising the money for defraying the charges.

Since Mr. Knowles' and my joint letter to you, I am informed by Mr. Secretary Willard, that upon the first raising of troops in this Province, for the expedition against Canada, in Queen Anne's time, Her Majesty expressly promised, (among other things,) as an encouragement for volunteers to enlist, that they should retain their arms, which had been provided for them by the crown; but as the expedition did not proceed that year, and the Queen sent orders to disband those levies, which was done. This government then thought proper, notwithstanding the Queen's express promise, and those troops had marched out of the Province, to be ready to proceed by land to Canada, to make the soldiers deliver up their arms, as they had not actually proceeded to Canada, in order to be kept for the service of the expedition, when it should be prosecuted; which seems to be a case, where the men had far greater reason to expect to retain their arms, than they have in this; especially as the Duke of Newcastle, in his letter to me, of the 30th of May, only says that His Majesty had laid aside the design of the expedition for the *present*.

It was necessary to transmit to you the terms for the payment of the men and non-commissioned officers, together with the enclosed discharge of them.

As to the officers, it may be time enough to send you Mr. Knowles' and my opinion of the terms on which they should be paid off, by the post following, he being now at Nantasket. With regard to myself, I must in the mean time, say, that I think they ought to have the full sterling pay, which the officers of His Majesty's other troops in their ranks receive.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Governor Wanton.

*Governor Wanton to Governor Shirley and Admiral Knowles.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, October 31st, 1747.

Gentlemen:—I have received your favor of the 26th current. The forces raised within this government, embarked for Annapolis Royal, on the 31st day of October, 1746, and returned to this place on the 2d of January, following, excepting some, who were left sick, at Martha's Vineyard.

I herewith send you, by Col. Kinricutt, the muster rolls, accounts, acts of Assembly and other papers, wrote for in your letter of the 10th current, all duly attested.

I hope they will be to your satisfaction ; but if you think any one or more articles of the expense not sufficiently proved by proper vouchers, please to let me know it, and I will endeavor to get the defect supplied.

The soldiers were enlisted into His Majesty's service, according to the method ordered by an act of the General Assembly, made for that purpose ; and no one of them received the government's bounty of £50, till he had taken the oath in that act prescribed, and had obtained a certificate thereof from a justice of the peace.

Of this large bounty, please to observe, the government hath made no charge to His Majesty ; and after their enlistment, were disciplined by their officers, and kept on duty, waiting His Majesty's commands, till they were ordered to embark for Annapolis Royal, in compliance with the pressing instance and direction of His Excellency, Governor Shirley, and the Hon. Admiral Warren, to whom His Majesty had given power to regulate or order the plan of operations, and the disposition of the forces.

A committee of war was appointed by the General Assembly of this colony, and fully empowered to act in all things relating to the expedition ; they inspected into and audited all the accounts, and gave orders to the general treasurer for the payment thereof ; and there has no money been paid by him on account of this expedition, without an order from said committee, or from the General Assembly, or from some person by them duly authorized.

The hire of transports and the misfortune of losing two of them at Martha's Vineyard, for which the government was by contract obliged to pay, hath much augmented the expense. What could be saved of said transports, and the provisions, stores, &c., that were not expended, have been sold at public auction, and the amount of the sale deducted.

When the forces landed here, on January 3d, in a weak and distressed condition, and many of them sick, the severity of the weather made it very difficult to induce persons to receive them into their houses, to nurse and take care of them ; and that time of the year being wholly unfit for action, they were furloughed till the 1st of March, excepting the sick, and a few whom the officers could not trust ; and since that time, they have been billeted out till the 22d of August past, except some who choose rather to forego it, than to appear every day before their officers as required.

I fear you will think the account of billeting to be irregular ; but the soldiers being sometimes allowed billeting and sometimes not, I could not get it put into a better form ; and when they were sick, (which many of them were,) it was impossible to billet them at the price the government had stated ; and be pleased to observe, that no accounts of billeting were paid, before they had been strictly examined, and allowed.

Due care shall be taken of the arms of the soldiers ; and if any of them are lost, the value shall be discounted out of their pay.

By the accounts, it appears that the three companies raised within this government, have been paid £1,455 14s., for which they have given their receipts. My opinion about their pay, I have already signified to you ; but it appears to me, by the copy of the extracts of the letter from His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, that Your Excellencies are to determine that point ; when, therefore, you have liquidated the sum this colony's companies are to receive, I presume you will let me know ; and likewise at what rate you fix the exchange between sterling money and

New England currency; for I believe the General Assembly of this colony will abide by your determination in both these points; and till they are known, I think it altogether impracticable to pay off the forces.

All possible frugality having been used, and the government having been obliged to advance part of their pay to the soldiers, and some additional clothing, to induce them cheerfully to go on the expedition to Annapolis, many of them having families to support, and the winter then approaching, I beg leave to renew my request of your good offices as well in behalf of the merchants who advanced the money for that payment made a twelve-month ago, as of the colony getting their expense incurred by this expedition, reimbursed; which favor shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by

Your most humble servant,

GIDEON WANTON.

To Governor Shirley, and Admiral Knowles.

P. S. I am apprehensive there are demands for services done, relating to this expedition, that are not yet brought in.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Wanton.*

Boston, December 28, 1747.

Sir:—I sometime ago informed Your Honor of a meeting of commissioners, to be appointed from the governments from Virginia as far as New Hampshire, being proposed to be at New York; and am now to apprise you, that in consequence of that proposal, there has been a meeting of commissioners from this government, New York and Connecticut, at New York; and that they agreed on another meeting, now fixed to be at Middletown, in Connecticut, the 20th of next month.

Those commissioners have reported, that there be a representation made to His Majesty, as to those governments which refuse to assist in this common cause; thinking, I suppose, that there is a necessity for it, when there is such danger of losing the Six Nations, and the other numerous tribes of Indians, their allies, to the westward; for the preservation of whose friendship, the King has always been very solicitous; as also for the safety of his province of New York.

And in his instructions to the present Governor, has, as I am informed, directed that the other governments should give their assistance in it.

I hope your government will look on my apprising Your Honor of this, to proceed, as it really does, from a most friendly disposition to them, and my hearty zeal to promote the interest of the common cause; and that they will send one or more commissioners to meet and act with the others, upon this important affair.

I hear all the people at Pennsylvania, are willing to assist in preventing the western Indians going over to the French.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Governor Wanton.

*Governor Wanton to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, January 9, 1747-8.

My Lords:—The Governor and Company of this, His Majesty's colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, having, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, transmitted to them by His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, bearing date the 9th of April, 1746, raised three companies of soldiers within this colony, for His Majesty's service, in the intended expedition against Canada; and having, besides a bounty of £50 to each soldier, expended £76,083 11s. 4d., New England currency, in levying said soldiers, in purchasing arms, ammunition, tents and provisions for them, in billeting them, and in advancing to them part of their pay, in hiring transports, and in equipping and manning a convoy, and in other necessary charges on account of said three companies, all which will appear by proper vouchers, sent to His Excellency, Governor Shirley, and the Honorable Admiral Knowles; and also to Mr. Richard Partridge, agent for this colony; and the General Assembly having enjoined and authorised me, the subscriber, Governor of the colony, abovesaid, to draw bills for the expense incurred by this colony on the occasion above mentioned; I have, pursuant thereto, drawn upon Your Lordships for the said sum of £76,083 11s. 4d., reduced to sterling money, at the rate of £750 currency, for £100 sterling, two sets of bills of this date; one, for £3,662 13s. 5d. sterling; and the other for £6,481 16s. 1d. sterling, payable to the said Richard Partridge.

I beg leave to observe to Your Lordships, that the Governor and Company of this colony, have remarkably distinguished themselves by their zeal to serve His Majesty on this occasion, in giving a greater bounty to the soldiers than any of the other governments did; and readily sending them at the instance and by the direction of Governor Shirley and the Honorable Admiral Warren, to attempt the relief of His Majesty's garrison at Annapolis Royal, at an advanced season of the year; and that they have thereby contracted a heavy load of debt, beyond their ability to pay, if their expense should not be reimbursed.

I am, &c.,

GIDEON WANTON.

To the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

*Governor Wanton to Richard Partridge, Agent for Rhode Island, in London.*

Newport, Rhode Island, January 11th, 1747-8.

Sir:—In pursuance of a vote of the General Assembly, I herewith transmit you the accounts of the whole expense arising upon the three companies of soldiers raised in this colony for the intended expedition against Canada; as also an account of the charge of equipping, manning and victualling the colony's sloop for the same service, all which are attested and authenticated in the best manner we are capable of doing it; and as the whole of said service was undertaken in obedience to His Majesty's royal instructions, signified to the Governor and Company of this colony, by His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, an attested copy whereof, you will receive herewith; wherein we were directed and ordered to raise as many men as the

shortness of the time would permit, who were to enter immediately into his service and pay, and to provide proper transports for the carrying the said forces to the place of rendezvous, and provisions for their subsistence; as also to furnish them with arms, clothing and other necessaries for the said expedition; and to provide as many armed vessels as could be got, to be employed in the said service, we cannot doubt but the whole of the expense will be paid by His Majesty.

And in order that you may be the better prepared to set the conduct of the colony in a true light, and to solicit the reimbursement of the expense we have been at, in complying with the King's instructions, I thought it would be proper to give you a short abstract of our proceedings in this affair.

As this colony has always distinguished itself by its loyalty to the crown, and zeal for its service, so in this affair, as they had received His Majesty's said instructions, the General Assembly immediately passed an act for the raising three companies of soldiers, consisting of one hundred men each, officers included; and also for equipping, manning and victualling the colony's sloop for the same service, though she was the only armed vessel we had to guard our coast and protect our trade.

And in order the more effectually to answer His Majesty's intentions in raising these forces, they granted a very large bounty to such as should enlist in said service; by which means, they completed the levying the men; and provided transports, provisions, arms, tents, clothing and other necessaries seasonably, so that the men were ready to embark at a very short warning, with provisions for their subsistence for nearly twelve months; and in this state they continued, (with the colony's sloop manned, and ready to proceed with them,) until the month of October, when, at the pressing instance of Governor Shirley and Admiral Warren, (who were two of the gentlemen appointed by His Majesty to direct the plan of operation in said expedition,) they were embarked to go to the relief of Annapolis Royal, which was then in the utmost danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, they departed from hence the beginning of November, under convoy of the colony's sloop, with all the provisions, &c., provided for the Canada expedition; but had the misfortune, in the pursuance of their voyage, to meet with contrary winds, and exceeding bad weather, whereby two of the transports were stranded and lost; and finally, after sending them another transport, and several fruitless attempts to proceed on their voyage, and after suffering very greatly by sickness and the severity of the weather, they were obliged to return in a very sickly condition, without being able to get to Annapolis after their return, as the government had no orders from the King to disband them; they were some furloughed, and some billeted out, until the King's pleasure should be known; and thus they continued until Governor Shirley and Commodore Knowles had orders to discharge them.

When the orders came for the raising these troops, the warning was so very short, that there was no possible means to comply with His Majesty's intentions, but by giving a large bounty; which you will see by the act, was £50, of the old tenor, (which is not charged in the accounts,) and the treasury being empty, the government was obliged to supply it by striking off a number of bills of credit, as well for the payment of this large bounty, (which they did not expect would be refunded,) as also to defray the charge of levying, arming, victualling, clothing, transporting, and other necessary expenses of the forces.

And notwithstanding that they expected that these last would be reimbursed by His Majesty, yet they were obliged to make provision for sinking the said bills by

a tax ; otherwise, they never could have obtained a currency, by which means, the colony is involved in a vast debt, which they are utterly unable to discharge at the periods prefixed in said act ; and in the mean time defray all the necessary expense of the defence and support of the government ; and if they had not had assurance of the charge being repaid, it is not probable they would have ventured on so large an expense.

The accounts, perhaps, may not appear so regular as might be expected ; this arises, in a great measure, from our not being acquainted with the methods of levying soldiers, and stating military accounts at home ; and so were forced to take methods of our own prescribing.

But we hope our zeal for the King's service in this affair, will atone for some little irregularities in the method of proceeding and stating our accounts ; especially when it is found, as we are persuaded it will, that the charge upon our soldiers will turn out full as low as the same number in any of the neighboring governments.

It is true there is no express promise in His Majesty's instructions for the reimbursing any part of the expense the colony should be at, in raising these forces, except the arms and clothing, which were immediately to be paid for, by Lieut. Gen. St. Clair. But, as the forces were by His Majesty's express orders and directions, to enter immediately into his service and pay, it seems to be naturally and necessarily implied, that he would pay all the charges arising upon the subsisting and transporting his own troops.

I must further inform you, that when the forces were ordered to embark for Annapolis Royal, as they had been several months in the service without any pay, and their clothing being not sufficient for them to go into garrison in the winter season, the government thought it absolutely necessary (though they had no orders from the King,) to advance them some part of their pay, and to furnish them with some more clothes on His Majesty's account ; and as the bills first struck off for the charge of this expedition were exhausted, they were obliged to have recourse to the merchants to borrow a sum for this exigency, which was accordingly effected, for which sum they were to receive sterling money, as you will see by the enclosed certificate ; and as this money was borrowed, and interest to be allowed for any delay of payment, it is the government's intentions that this should be paid out of the first money that you shall receive ; and they have given me directions to draw bills upon you for the same, which I have accordingly done.

You will see, also, by the accounts, that the colony hath since made another payment to the officers and soldiers, for both of which payments, they have given receipts, reduced into sterling money in part of their pay ; which sums must be deducted when they are paid off.

When Governor Shirley and Commodore Knowles received directions to discharge the soldiers, they also had instructions to procure the accounts from the several governments, of the whole expense incurred on account of the American troops, from the time of their being levied, to the time of their discharge ; and they were likewise empowered to adjust and liquidate all the said accounts, and transmit them to the Duke of Newcastle, with the proper vouchers from the several Governors, that they might be laid before the Parliament, in order that provision might be made for the payment, which seems to be a demonstration that it is the King's intention that the whole expense should be paid ; an extract of which instructions was sent by those gentlemen to me, requesting me to send the accounts of the

whole expense this colony had been at, on account of said forces; which accordingly has been done exactly in the same form and with the same attestations as those now sent you.

In what manner those gentlemen have adjusted and liquidated them, or in what light they have represented them to the Duke of Newcastle, I cannot tell; but by some expressions in a letter from them, it does not seem as though they had done it very favorably to the colony.

A copy of the extract of the Duke of Newcastle's instructions to those gentlemen, you have here enclosed, in which you will see that they were directed to recommend it to the Governors of the provinces wherein the levies were made, to procure credit from their respective Assemblies for the paying the forces when discharged, which I have laid before the General Assembly; but they have not yet made any provision for the payment of the arrears due to those raised in this colony, which is very considerable, as you may see, by considering what they have already received.

You will perceive by the accounts, that the expenses for doctors and medicines amount pretty high; there was all possible care taken in this article; but this expense was unavoidable, as these forces were not regimented, and so no chirurgeons upon the King's establishment; and sickness raging very much amongst them, we at first made use of doctors occasionally; but finding that very chargeable, we were obliged to contract with one by the month, who continued a whole year in the service of the government, finding all medicines, which are excessively dear in this country.

The General Assembly having empowered and directed me to draw bills of exchange for the whole amount of this expense, upon the lords commissioners of the treasury, or upon whom the payment thereof shall concern, payable to you, I have in pursuance thereof, drawn two sets of bills; one set, including the amount of the arms, clothing, and the pay advanced to the officers and soldiers, which being reduced to sterling money, at the rate of £750 this currency, for £100 sterling, is £3,662 13s. 3d.; the other set, includes all the remaining part of the expense, which amounts at the same exchange, to £6,481 16s. 1d.; which I make no doubt you will use your best endeavors to procure the payment of, by the best means you are capable of making use of.

I have given you as full an information of this affair as I can think of at this time; if any further account should be thought necessary, I shall endeavor to transmit it to you; and in the mean time remain,

Your assured friend,

GIDEQN WANTON.

P. S. On comparison, you will find that there is a difference in some instances between the muster rolls and the abstracts of enlistment, as to the days of enlisting. The occasion of it seems to be, the commissary took his dates from the certificates; whereas, the captains took theirs from the days on which the soldiers agreed to enter into His Majesty's service, which was oftentimes several days before they were sworn. This error cannot be of any great consequence; yet, it will not be amiss (if any objections should be made on that account,) for you to take notice of what is said above.

G. W.



*Gov. Wanton to Gov. Shirley.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, January 14, 1747-8.

Sir:—I herewith send you two sets more of the accounts of this colony's expense in the intended expedition against Canada, and two abstracts of the enlistments but not made exactly in the manner Your Excellency hath directed. This is owing to our not having been acquainted with the regular manner of enlisting; the enlisting officers pursued the method prescribed by the General Assembly of the colony, and accepted of such as appeared to them to be able bodied men, without inquiring about their place of abode, or their age; but this defect hath been in some measure supplied from muster rolls lodged by the captains in the commissary's office; due care was taken not to accept of any one as a soldier, who was not above sixteen years of age; and all the soldiers took the oath prescribed in the act of Assembly, and had a certificate, that they had so done, and in what company they were enlisted, from some justice of the peace in commission, or assistant of the colony, before they received the government's bounty; all which certificates are on file in the treasurer and commissary's office; but few of them making mention of the soldier's place of abode or age; the columns made to express those two things, could not be filled up in the manner you have directed; I hope this want of regularity is not very material, and that it will be excused for the reason above mentioned.

I have been informed that some of the arms are not in very good order, and perhaps some of them may be missing; if therefore, the officers of the three companies raised within this government, should apply to Your Excellency for certificates; and you should think proper to grant them (the General Assembly having not made any provision for paying said officers their arrears,) I desire you will be pleased to transmit said certificates to me, that I may stop them, till I shall be better satisfied about the arms than I am at present.

I beg leave to acquaint Your Excellency, that I have, in pursuance of a vote of the General Assembly in August last, the substance of which I wrote you in my letter, of the 23d of October past, drawn bills as directed in said vote, and to entreat Your Excellency's good offices and recommendation to His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, and others, in whom you may have an interest at the court of Great Britain, in behalf of the merchants here, who supplied this government with the money paid to the soldiers just before their embarkation for Annapolis Royal; and also of the colony in general, which by its zeal to serve His Majesty, in the intended expeditions, hath contracted a heavy load of debt, beyond the ability of the inhabitants to discharge, in case their expense should not be reimbursed.

I am, with very great respect, &c.,

GIDEON WANTON.

To Governor Shirley.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Monday in February, 1747-8.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, there is no regular cartel settled between His Most Gracious Majesty, King George the Second, King of Great Britain and the French King, and His Most Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain, &c., for the exchanging of prisoners of war; his subjects that belong to this, His Majesty's colony, when taken by either of the powers of the aforesaid princes, now our most gracious Majesty's open and declared enemies, and at war, to the great annoyance and peace of this, his most loyal and dutiful colony; which renders the redeeming of His Majesty's subjects, belonging to the same, impracticable by any other method or means, but by way of flag of truce, either from this colony to either of the aforesaid princes, enemies of our sovereign, or from thence to this colony; which, if prevented or discouraged, under proper regulations, would be greatly against His Majesty's interest, and unspeakable hardship of his subjects belonging to this colony;—

For regulating whereof, for the future, be it enacted by this Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that when any persons, prisoners of war, be brought into this colony, belonging to either of the said princes, His said Majesty's enemies, as aforesaid, when there be to the number of fifteen or more, of such prisoners, their names, and by whom, and when taken, being first certified by the secretary of this colony, who is hereby required to keep an exact register of all such prisoners, to be taken from the oath of the captors, the confession of

such prisoners, or decree, or certificate from the admiralty office, that then, and in such case His Honor, the Governor of this colony, for the time being, may commissionate a proper person and vessel, at the charge of this colony, unless some private merchant will offer to do the same, at his own expense.

Provided always, that such person so commissioned, shall, before such vessel sails out of any harbor in this colony, produce a certificate from the admiralty, or custom house office, that such vessel has not on board any more provisions than are, by them, thought to be sufficient for victualling such vessel's crew, and such prisoners and as many English prisoners, as such vessel is capable of bringing back from the dominions of either of the aforesaid princes, with conveniency; and that such persons, so commissioned, give bond to His Majesty, in the sum of £1,000; to produce a certificate from the Governor, or other commanding officer of the place, where such prisoners are to be delivered, of such delivery, and that he will bring back as many English prisoners as such vessel will carry with conveniency, if they are to be had at such place.

Whereas, John Gardner, of South Kingstown, hath represented unto this Assembly, that the inhabitants, trade and commerce of this colony, have so far increased of late that the ferries established on the Narraganset shore, and the boats employed in that service are not sufficient to transport with convenience, the numerous passengers, their large droves, various effects and merchandise; the boats being often crowded with men, women, children, horses, hogs, sheep and cattle, to the intolerable inconvenience, annoyance, and delay of men and business; that he, the said John Gardner, is provided with a good wharf, and pier, situate in a convenient, and commodious place, for keeping a ferry between South Kingstown, and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him the liberty of keeping a ferry between the aforesaid towns of South Kingstown and Jamestown;—

On consideration whereof, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the petitioner have

the liberty of keeping a ferry, agreeably to his petition, he complying with the laws regulating ferries.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Robinson, Esq., George Wanton, Esq., Jeremiah Niles, Esq., Capt. Robert Haszard and Col. Benoni Waterman, be a committee, to consider of the best method that may be, for the payment of the officers and soldiers raised by this colony, for the intended expedition against Canada, and make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the rate of £5,000, new tenor, to be levied on this colony, for the year year 1747, be proportioned to each town as followeth, and that the same be levied as soon as may be, viz.:

	£	s.		£	s.
Newport . . . . .	825	00	Glocester . . . . .	117	15
Providence . . . . .	550	00	Charlestown . . . . .	75	00
Portsmouth . . . . .	275	15	West Greenwich . . . . .	79	05
Warwick . . . . .	239	10	Coventry . . . . .	59	10
Westerly . . . . .	270	00	Exeter . . . . .	125	00
New Shoreham . . . . .	83	00	Middletown . . . . .	149	00
North Kingstown . . . . .	325	00	Bristol . . . . .	174	10
South Kingstown . . . . .	450	00	Tiverton . . . . .	140	00
East Greenwich . . . . .	125	00	Little Compton . . . . .	167	10
Jamestown . . . . .	100	05	Warren . . . . .	115	00
Smithfield . . . . .	274	00	Cumberland . . . . .	83	10
Scituate . . . . .	132	00	Richmond . . . . .	64	10

It is voted and resolved, that George Wanton, Esq., Mr. Jas. Sheffield, Stephen Hopkins, Esq. and Capt. Robert Haszard, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to pay off the officers and soldiers, raised in this colony, for the intended expedition against Canada, upon the credit of His Majesty, what yet remains unpaid of their wages; and for that purpose, that the sum of £7,500, in bills of credit, of the new tenor, be forthwith struck off, and signed by the grand committee, and delivered to the said committee; or a

less sum, if the whole shall not be wanted; and that the same be sunk when it is repaid by His Majesty.

It is voted and resolved, that the secretary be cited to appear at the next session of this Assembly, to answer for his conduct, in respect to the act passed at the last session of this Assembly, on consideration of the extracts of the Duke of Newcastle's letter to Governor Shirley, respecting the dismissal of the troops raised in America, for the expedition against Canada, &c.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 3d day of May, 1748.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Benjamin Haszard,

Mr. Joseph Edmonds,

Capt. George Wanton,

Mr. Jeremiah Niles.

Mr. Benjamin Tucker,

Mr. William Richmond.

Mr. Gideon Durfey,

The Hon. Daniel Jenckes, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1748.*

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. William Robinson, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Capt. Thomas Wickham,  
Capt. Walter Chaloner,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. John Channing,  
Capt. Jonathan Nichols,  
Mr. James Sheffield.

*Providence.*

The Hon. Daniel Jenckes,  
Mr. John Angel,  
Mr. Henry Harris,  
Mr. John Potter, Jr.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Daniel Howland,  
Mr. Oliver Earl,  
Mr. David Anthony,  
Mr. Jonathan Freeborn.

*Warwick.*

Col. Benoni Waterman,  
Mr. Samuel Greene,  
Mr. Joseph Lippitt,  
Mr. Samuel Barton.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock,  
Major William Pendleton.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Nathaniel Littlefield,  
Mr. John Littlefield.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. Edward Dyre.

*South Kingstown.*

Col. Thomas Haszard,  
Mr. Benjamin Haszard.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Giles Pearce,  
Capt. Thomas Spencer.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. John Eldred,  
Mr. George Franklin.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Jonathan Arnold,  
Mr. Israel Wilkinson.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Capt. Charles Harris.

## DEPUTIES.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere,  
Capt. Richard Smith.

*Charlestown.*

Col. Joseph Stanton,  
Mr. James Congdon.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
Mr. George Gardner.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Aaron Bowen,  
Mr. Elisha Johnson.

*Exeter.*

Capt. Job Tripp,  
Mr. Simon Smith.

*Middletown.*

Mr. John Rogers,  
Mr. John Taylor.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Jonathan Peck,  
Major Thomas Greene.

*Tiverton.*

Capt. John Manchester,  
Mr. John Howland.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. William Hall,  
Mr. Joseph Wood.

*Warren.*

Mr. Matthew Allen,  
Capt. Benjamin Barton.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Israel Whipple,  
Mr. Job Bartlett.

*Richmond.*

Capt. Richard Bayley,  
Mr. John Webster.

The Hon. Daniel Jenckes, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon,  
clerk.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged:

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,  
Mr. John Gardner,  
Mr. Robert Gibbs,  
Mr. William Burton,  
Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. James Arnold,  
Mr. William Richmond,  
Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

It is voted and resolved, that the troops raised in this colony, for the expedition intended against Canada, and lately disbanded, shall be paid their arrears in bills of public credit, at nine hundred per cent. advance upon the sterling wages.

It is voted and resolved, that the colony's sloop Tartar, shall be forthwith put in commission, and manned with ninety effective men, including officers, who shall be allowed and have the same wages as were paid the last year; and that the commissary purchase six months' provisions for the sloop, and put on board her not less thereof than will be sufficient for six weeks at one time; and that the sloop cruise according to the orders and directions of His Honor, the Governor, until the 1st day of October next, or longer, if His Honor shall think proper.

And the general treasurer is hereby directed and ordered, to supply the commissary with such sums of money as shall be necessary to equip said sloop, and purchase the provisions, aforesaid; as also necessaries for Fort George.

God save the King.

*The Duke of Bedford to the Governor of Rhode of Island.*

Whitehall, 7th May, 1748.

Sir:—The King's plenipotentiary, and those of His Most Christian Majesty and the States General of the United Provinces, having signed, at Aix la Chappelle, on the 19th of April last, O. S., preliminary articles for restoring a general peace, and in consequence whereof, His Majesty has been pleased to order a proclamation to be published, declaring a cessation of arms, as well by sea as land, which I send you herewith enclosed.

I am commanded by His Majesty to signify to you his pleasure, that you cause the same to be published in all the proper places of your government, to the end that all His Majesty's subjects there, may pay due obedience to, and a strict observance of the same.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

BEDFORD.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.



*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday in June, 1748.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that William Barton, William Richmond, Joshua Babcock and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to take into consideration the subject matter of His Excellency, Governor Shirley's letter to the government, and make report thereof, to this Assembly.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that James Holmes, captain of the colony's sloop Tartar, notwithstanding the vessel was not to go on a cruise till manned with ninety effective men, including officers, on or about the 21st day of May last, went to sea with the sloop, having but about sixty-five hands on board; and that of his own accord, having no orders nor instructions from His Honor, the Governor; that in this cruise on, or about the 22d of May, he gave chase to a schooner, not far from Block Island, and came up with her near Point Judith. After a couple of shot were fired, the schooner struck; Capt. Holmes took possession of her, and put his lieutenant on board, with orders to bring her in; that thereupon, the schooner, which was pretended to be a flag of truce, almost loaded from Leoganon Hispaniola, to some of the northern colonies, sailed on the west side of Conanicut, came round and anchored at a place called Coddington's Cove, where she was unladen of a cargo of sugar, &c.; and afterwards brought publicly into this port; which conduct of the captain and lieutenant of the colony's sloop demand the notice of this Assembly;—

Who thereupon vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Stephen Brownell, Daniel Coggeshall and William Hall, Esqs., together with Messrs. Walter Chaloner, James Sheffield, Benoni Waterman and John Eldred, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to examine into the conduct of the said Capt. Holmes, respecting the premises ; and if it shall appear to them, that he merits to be suspended the colony's service, that they suspend him until the next session of this Assembly, and appoint another in his room, to command the said sloop in the mean time ; and to examine and deal with Daniel Vaughan, the lieutenant of the Tartar, in the same manner ; and that the said committee have full power to summon persons before them, to give evidence concerning the premises ; and if the said officers shall be found to have been guilty of mal-conduct, that the committee have, and power is hereby given them, to commit the offender or offenders to jail, or admit him or them to bail, for his or their appearance before this Assembly, at its next session ; and that His Honor, the Governor, commissionate such captain and lieutenant as shall be appointed by the committee, if they shall appoint any.

It is voted and resolved, that Robert Gibbs, Stephen Hopkins and George Brown, Esqs., be sued by Benjamin Nichols, of Newport, one of the grand committee, or colony's trustees, in behalf of the colony, in an action of £100,000 damage, for breach of trust, in receiving of the General Assembly sundry papers of great consequence, and neglecting to return the same ; and that he employ one or more attornies in said case ; and that the action be brought to the next inferior court of common pleas, to be held in the county of King's county ; and that the said Benjamin Nichols draw money out of the general treasury, to defray the charge of said suit.

God save the King.

*The Duke of Bedford to the Governor and Company of R. Island.*

Whitehall, June 28, 1748.

Gentlemen :—The act of accession of the King of Spain, as likewise that of the republic of Genoa, to the preliminaries signed at Aix La Chappelle, the 19th of April, O. S. 1748, having been signed there by their respective plenipotentiaries, on the 28th instant, N. S., in consequence of which, hostilities are to cease, as well by sea as land, according to the terms and periods agreed upon for a suspension of arms, in the treaty signed at Paris, the 19th day of August, N. S., 1712, I herewith enclose to you a literal translation of the clauses of the said treaty of the 19th of August, N. S., 1712, which relate to this matter ; and which, together with my letter to you of 7th of May last, and the copy of His Majesty's proclamation, which was therein enclosed, will serve for your information, and for the rule of your conduct on this occasion ; and you are to give proper directions to the end that all His Majesty's subjects in your government, may pay due obedience thereto, and strictly observe the same. I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

BEDFORD.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 4th Monday of August, 1748.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that all the officers and men, belonging to the colony's sloop Tartar, be discharged ; and that the commissary take the vessel into his care, unbend her sails, and put all her small stores on shore, taking an inventory of them ; that the sloop shall lie at anchor in the road, and a number of proper persons, not exceeding four, be kept on board, for her better security ; and in case it shall be found necessary to send her out upon a cruise, then His Honor, the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor, with the advice of such

of his council as shall then be within the county of Newport, appoint proper officers to command said sloop ; furnish a captain and lieutenant with proper commissions, issue a warrant for impressing a sufficient number of seamen, and send them forth against the enemy with all necessary despatch.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Chaloner discharge all the soldiers belonging to Fort George, eight excepted ; that nevertheless, if there be any appearance of danger, whereby it may seem that the defence of the fort will require a larger number of soldiers, the captain is hereby empowered to issue a warrant to the sheriff of the county of Newport, for the impressing as many as he shall think necessary for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that Josiah Arnold, Esq., and Mr. John Hull, both of Jamestown, and Mr. John Gardner, of South Kingstown, be a committee, they, or the major part of them, to purchase, for the colony's use, the two ferry places on the west side of Jamestown, with the two ferry boats, and all other appurtenances, if the same may be had at a reasonable rate, and cheaper than to build new ; and take a good deed of the same, and draw money out of the general treasury to pay therefor. But if said ferry places, boats, &c., cannot be purchased upon better terms than to build, then the said committee, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered and directed to build a good and suitable pier or wharf, for a ferry place, at the west end of the highway, which runs across said Jamestown, from ferry to ferry, and erect a suitable house on said highway, and purchase two suitable ferry boats as soon as conveniently may be, for the use of the colony ; and draw money out of the general treasury to defray the same ; and immediately to hire one or two suitable boats for transporting over the ferry ; and appoint proper persons to tend the same, until good boats may be purchased ; and that no other persons be licensed to keep a ferry on the west side of Jamestown.

Whereas, Edward Scott, Esq. and the secretary were appointed a committee, to procure the printing of all the public laws, now in force in this colony, that have been made since

the last revisal and printing the laws, but have hitherto omitted doing the same, and the secretary altogether declines engaging in that business, being in a bad state of health ;—

Wherefore this Assembly do constitute and appoint Mr. James Gould, of Newport, to join Mr. Scott, in the secretary's room.

Whereas, Col. Benoni Waterman and Mr. Joseph Lippitt, represented unto this Assembly, that the bridge over Pawtuxet river, commonly called Capt. Benjamin Greene's Bridge, is very much out of repair ; and as the same is in the country road, and of great service to the public, they prayed a grant of about £70, out of the general treasury, for repairing said bridge ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved by the Assembly, that the said Benoni Waterman and Mr. Samuel Greene, be, and they are appointed a committee, to repair the bridge aforesaid ; and when it is completed, that they draw out of the general treasury the sum of £70, towards paying the charge thereof.

Whereas, the commissioners, that were appointed to run the line between the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and this colony, did not go through that work in every part thereof ;—

Whereupon, it is voted and enacted by the Assembly, that Daniel Jenckes, Henry Harris and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed commissioners to finish the running said line in manner following, viz. :

Beginning at the monument, in the north-east corner of the colony, set up by the former commissioners, where they left off, and from thence to run westerly to Connecticut line, agreeably to the charter of this colony ; and that they meet the third Tuesday of October next, at 12 o'clock, at Maxe's, in Attleborough, in order to begin said work.

And it is further voted and enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, write to His Excellency, the Governor of the Massachusetts, informing him of this resolution ; and to request that commissioners may be appointed on the part of that Prov-

ince, to join with the commissioners of the colony, in order to perform the business aforesaid.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their last session, in Newport, appointed Peter Bours, Stephen Brownell, Daniel Coggeshall and William Hall, Esqs., together with Messrs. Walter Chaloner, James Sheffield, Benoni Waterman and John Eldred, or the major part of them, a committee, to inquire into the conduct of the captain and lieutenant of the colony's sloop, &c. ; and the major part of the said committee having assumed and gone through the burthen of that province, made report as followeth, to wit :

*Report of the Committee in the case of Captain and Lieutenant of the Sloop Tartar.*

To the Honorable General Assembly :

" We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee to inquire into the conduct of Capt. James Holmes, commander of the colony sloop Tartar, charged with misdemeanors in his said office ; and also into the conduct of Mr. Daniel Vaughan, lieutenant of said sloop, with full powers to continue or suspend said officers, as should be found agreeably to justice ; in pursuance of which, we have met, and had before us the said Capt. Holmes and Mr. Daniel Vaughan, and on examining them and several evidences, summoned before us, came to the following resolutions which we now report :

1. That as to Capt. Holmes' going out without orders, or instructions from the Governor, it was resolved by the committee, that his going out without orders, or instructions from the Governor, or the Deputy Governor, was a great misdemeanor ; but it appeared to the committee, that it was without any bad design, and principally to keep his men on board from deserting their service.

2. As to his conduct, in bringing to the schooner referred to by act of Assembly, and what was consequent thereupon, the committee resolved, that it did not appear by the evidences, that Capt. Holmes knew the said schooner was a flag of truce at that time ; but as she had been at Jamaica, and was furnished with a clearance from the custom house of that island (which was produced to the committee), there is room to allow that Capt. Holmes might suppose her to come directly from thence ; but the committee was of opinion, that he greatly erred in putting his lieutenant, Mr. Daniel Vaughan, on board said schooner, as a pilot, to bring her in, as said Vaughan had the second command on board the colony sloop.

3. As to the said Capt. Holmes' not waiting upon the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor, on his return from his cruise, the committee resolved, that it was a breach of duty ; and that he ought, on his return, to have waited on the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor, to have informed him of what had occurred in said cruise.

Upon the whole, though it appeared to the committee that Capt. Holmes had been guilty of several misdemeanors in his conduct, as captain of said sloop, yet it

was resolved by them, that they did not amount to sufficient cause for a suspension from his aforesaid post of captain of said sloop.

With respect to Mr. Daniel Vaughan, the lieutenant of the sloop, it appeared to the committee, that he was put on board said schooner, by order of Capt. Holmes, his superior officer; and although he declared to the committee, that one Mr. Right, on board her (who had with him a copy of one Capt. Haydon's commission, to command a privateer vessel, which was produced to the committee,) ordered him to carry the schooner to Coddington's Cove; yet the committee were of opinion, that he erred in complying with said Right's orders, and in not bringing her into the harbor of Newport. But on considering the whole of his conduct, and the circumstances attending it, on board said schooner, the committee resolved, that there was not sufficient cause for to suspend him from his aforesaid office of lieutenant of said sloop.

PETER BOURS,  
STEPHEN BROWNELL,  
WILLIAM HALL,

WALTER CHALONER,  
BENONI WATERMAN.

Newport, August 23, 1748."

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build a pier and ferry house on the west side of Jamestown, and procure boats, &c., or the major part of the said committee, to treat with John Martin, of Jamestown, or whoever owns the piers or wharfs and ferry houses, on the west side of Jamestown, and purchase, or hire of him, said piers or wharfs and ferry houses, and boats, for the use of the colony, until those they appointed to build are fit for use; and, if he refuse to let the colony have them upon reasonable terms, that said committee take possession of the southernmost of said piers or wharfs on the west side of Jamestown, and improve them for the use of the colony, and for accommodating the inhabitants thereof; and that reasonable damages be allowed by the colony to the owners thereof, for the same, during the time they shall be improved for the use of the colony.

God save the King.

*The Duke of Bedford to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, August 9, 1748.

Gentlemen:—In my letter of the 28th June last, I acquainted you with the King of Spain and the republic of Genoa's accession to the preliminary articles signed at Aix la Chappelle, the 19th of April, O. S., 1748, for restoring a general peace.

I am now to inform you, that their Excellencies, the Lords Justices, have since ordered a proclamation to be published, a copy of which is enclosed, declaring a cessation of hostilities against His Catholic Majesty, and the republic of Genoa, and their subjects, as well by sea as land; which proclamation you are to cause to be published in all the proper places under your government, to the end that His Majesty's subjects there, may pay due obedience, and strictly conform themselves thereto.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

BEDFORD.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1748.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Jenckes, Henry Harris and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed commissioners to run the northern boundary line of the colony, from the stake set up by Nathan'l Woodward and Solomon Saffery, in the year 1649, upon Wrentham Plain, westerly, so as it may (at Connecticut river,) be two miles and a half to the southward of a west line; and that said line be run clear through, to said Connecticut river, according to an agreement made between the commissioners of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and this colony, October the 22d, 1718; and that they meet the first Monday in April next, at Pelatiah Man's, at Wrentham, in order to begin said work; and that His Honor, the Governor, write to His Excellency, the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay, informing him of this resolution; and to request that commissioners may be appointed on the part of that government, to join with our commissioners, to perform the business aforesaid.



It is voted and resolved, that the colony's sloop Tartar, together with all her appurtenances, stores and provisions, (excepting the warlike stores,) be sold by the commissary, at a public vendue, to the highest bidder, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly; and that the commissary give public notice of the sale, with a list of the stores, appurtenances and provisions; the price to be paid down into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, send home, to Mr. Partridge, the colony's agent in Great Britain, copies of the muster-rolls of the officers and soldiers, enlisted for the expedition against Canada; together with a well attested copy of Governor Shirley and Governor Knowles' order for the settlement of the pay; and direct the agent to make application for the re-payment thereof, by the crown; and that the former committee, viz: George Wanton, Esq., Mr. James Sheffield, Stephen Hopkins, Esq. and Capt. Robert Haszard, prepare said copies, and deliver them to His Honor; and that said committee render an account of all their proceedings to the General Assembly, at their next session; and that His Honor, the Governor, draw bills for payment of the above mentioned pay to the agent.

It is voted and resolved, that Robert Gibbs, William Hopkins, Daniel Jenckes, Stephen Hopkins and George Brown, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee to take into consideration the queries sent from the board of trade, to this colony, and prepare an answer thereto, and lay the same before this Assembly, at their next session; that, in the mean time, the town council of each respective town in this colony, be, and they are hereby directed to appoint a proper person to take an account of the inhabitants of each town, whites, Indians and blacks; and deliver said account to the said committee; and that the same committee take into consideration the letter from Chambers Russell, Esq., judge of the vice admiralty, and report thereupon to this Assembly, at their next session; and that the secretary transmit a copy of this vote to each town clerk in this colony.

*Proclamation of Governor Shirley and Admiral Knowles.*

His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, having, in his letter to Governor Shirley, signified that His Majesty, finding it necessary to employ the greatest part of his forces to assist his allies, and defend the liberties of Europe, had thought proper for the present, to lay aside the prosecution of the intended expedition against Canada, and commanded him and Governor Knowles to discharge all the forces raised for that service (excepting such as they should judge necessary to be kept in pay for securing the Province of Nova Scotia,) and to thank the officers and men, in His Majesty's name for their readiness and zeal to enter into his service.

In consequence thereof, we do hereby discharge all the said officers and men (except four hundred,) out of His Majesty's service, from the 31st of October, 1747, and they are hereby discharged, accordingly.

And we do also thank them in His Majesty's royal name, for their readiness to engage in their country's cause against the common enemy; and though they are prevented at present, of revenging themselves on a cruel, perfidious enemy, it cannot be doubted but the same zeal and spirit will always animate them to serve again whenever they are called upon.

Given under our hands, this 28th day of October, 1747.

W. SHIRLEY,  
CHARLES KNOWLES.

*Thomas Hill to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, June 8, 1748.

Gentlemen:—I am directed by my lords commissioners for trade and plantations, to send you the enclosed heads of inquiry, and to desire your particular answer thereto, as soon as may be, together with your observations upon such points as you shall think necessary; and you are desired to make a return thereto every six months, that their lordships may be apprized of any alterations which may happen in the circumstances of your government.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS HILL.

To the Governor and Company of the Colony of Rhode Island.

*Queries from the Board of Trade, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

What is the situation of the colony under your government; the nature of the country, soil and climate; the latitudes and longitudes of the most considerable places in it, or the neighboring French or Spanish settlements? Have those latitudes and longitudes been settled by good observations, or only by common computations, and from whence are the longitudes computed?

What are the reputed boundaries; and are any parts thereof disputed, what parts, and by whom?

What is the constitution of the government ?

What is the trade of the colony, the number of shipping, their tonnage, and the number of sea-faring men, with the respective increase or diminution, within ten years past ?

What quantity and sorts of British manufactures do the inhabitants annually take from hence ?

What trade has the colony under your government, with any foreign plantations, or any part of Europe besides Great Britain ? How is that trade carried on ? What commodities do the people under your government send to, or receive from foreign plantations ?

What methods are there used to prevent illegal trade, and are the same effectual ?

What is the natural produce of the country, staple commodities and manufactures, and what value thereof in sterling money, may you annually export ?

What mines are there ?

What is the number of inhabitants, whites and blacks ?

Are the inhabitants increased or decreased within the last ten years, how much and for what reasons ?

What is the number of the militia ?

What forts and places of defence are there within your government, and in what condition ?

What number of Indians have you, and how are they inclined ?

What is the strength of the neighboring Indians ?

What is the strength of your neighboring Europeans, French or Spaniards ?

What effect have the French or Spanish settlements on the continent of America, upon His Majesty's plantations, especially on your colony ?

What is the revenue arising within your government, and how is it appropriated ?

What are the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of your government ?

What are the establishments, civil and military, within your government, and by what authority do the officers hold their places ?

*Chambers Russell to Gov. Greene.*

Charlestown, July 8th, 1748.

Sir :—The lords commissioners of the admiralty, having been informed that there was an iniquitous trade subsisting between the colony of Rhode Island and the King's enemies, under color of flags of truce, have directed me to make the most strict inquiry into the truth of it, and if I find the same to be fact, to make proper remonstrances to the government of Rhode Island against such illegal proceedings.

I have, in compliance with their lordships' commands, made inquiry into the same, and find that there were the last year, above twenty sail of vessels commissioned as flags of truce, by the government of Rhode Island, to carry prisoners to the French West Indies ; which vessels have carried but few prisoners ; but under color of said commissions, have carried cargoes of fish and other provisions to the King's enemies, and in return have brought back the produce of the French sugar plantations.

And also, that several French flags of truce came to Rhode Island, with cargoes of molasses, sugar and indigo; for which, they have carried back in return-provisions.

And as said trade is strictly prohibited by His Majesty's proclamation, and is a base prostitution of the King's commission, and has a tendency to distress His Majesty's subjects and succor the enemy, I doubt not but that you'll take the utmost care to prevent it; and will see that those who presume to carry on such illicit trade, for the future, are duly punished.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

CHAMBERS RUSSELL.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq.,  
to be communicated to the General Court.

Whereas, Josiah Arnold, Esq., and Mr. John Hull, both of Jamestown, and Mr. John Gardner, of South Kingstown, were by the General Assembly, appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to purchase for the colony's use, the two ferry places on the west side of Jamestown, with the two ferry boats, and all other appurtenances, if the same might be had at a reasonable rate, and cheaper than to build new, &c., and having undertaken, and gone through that work, made the following report of their doings, &c.:

" Colony of Rhode Island, Jamestown,  
October 22d, 1748.

Pursuant to an act of the General Assembly of this colony, held at Newport, by adjournment, the 28th of August, A. D., 1748, we, the subscribers, do report as followeth, viz.:

That we having met and duly considered the expense of buildings suitable for ferrying from the west side of Jamestown to the main, and the season being so far spent that we had no hopes of completing the same, so as to accommodate the country this winter, thought it best to buy those already erected there, and have purchased the same of William Martin, for the consideration of £3,155, in bills of public credit; and have taken a deed of the same, made to the Governor and Company of the colony of Rhode Island; which deed we have lodged in the clerk's office, in order to be recorded; but the same cannot be done at present, there being no money in the treasury to discharge those bonds and mortgages, for which the land is surety, or we should have presented Your Honors with the deed; £155, of the above sum, being in tenth bonds, the remaining sum of £3,000 we have given bond for payment, in two months, with interest at ten per cent.; which we hope Your Honors will take into consideration, and order the money raised to discharge the same, lest we should be sufferers in the affair.

We also acquaint Your Honors, that we have agreed with Thos. Spencer to keep the ferries two months, at the rate of £200 per annum, he being a person, who we well know, is capable of tending and taking proper care of the boats in stormy weather; and as Your Honors are well sensible that the purchasing the ferries was

for the better accomodating the public, we doubt not but Your Honors will be of opinion that not every person who may appear eager to give the greatest rent for the ferries, and perhaps for want of care and judgment in the affair, may lose one or both the boats, will be suitable to serve the public, as one who is capable of carrying passengers with safety, and taking that due care of the boats, which sometimes requires a good deal of judgment in bad storms.

We would further inform Your Honors, that both the wharves want some repairs; the northernmost not being sufficient to land at low water; so that all the boats are obliged to come to the south wharf; which oftentimes is attended with a good deal of difficulty, by running each other on shore; and passengers obliged to jump their horses into the water, and oftentimes land, and take on board through two or three boats; so that travellers' horses are many times lamed by that means; all which we thought proper to inform Your Honors of.

JOSIAH ARNOLD,

JOHN HULL,

JOHN GARDNER"

Which report being duly considered, this Assembly do vote and resolve, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted; and that the committee, aforesaid, be still continued; that they make such repairs at the aforementioned ferry places, as are necessary at present; that they let out said ferry places until the session of the Assembly, in May next; and draw money out of the general treasury, and discharge the aforesaid bonds and mortgage of the premises, as well as the rest of the purchase money.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1748, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act enabling the town council of each town to grant licenses for the retailing strong liquors," etc. (February.)

An Act enabling the several towns to make such town acts, as may seem to them meet, for the raising of monies to defray the charges of each town. (February.)

An Act in addition to an act directing the attendance of petit jurors, as witnesses.

An Act directing of gaining a legal settlement in any town in the colony, and for the removal of poor persons from their illegal to their legal place of settlement. (June.)

An Act to prevent profane cursing and swearing. (August.)

An Act to render the session of the General Assembly less precarious than it hath been hitherto. (August.)

An additional Act to prevent the spreading of the small pox, and other contagious sickness in the colony. (October.)

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 3d day of January, 1748-9.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Robert Gibbs, Stephen Hopkins, Daniel Jénckes and George Brown, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to take into consideration the letter from His Excellency, Governor Shirley, with the other papers relating to the paper currency, and make report thereon to this Assembly, at their next session.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 27th day of February, 1748-9.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee, who were appointed to pay off the soldiers raised for the expedition intended against Canada, render an account, upon oath, unto His Honor, the Governor, how much sterling money hath been by them paid to the said soldiers; and that His Honor, the Governor, draw bills for the same, on the lords of the treasury, payable to the agent of this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Col. Thomas Haszard, Capt. Job Randall and Mr. Benjamin Brown, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to examine into the state and condition of the several bridges in this colony, and make report to this Assembly, at their next session, what bridges ought to be maintained in whole or in part, by the colony, and by what ways and means the other bridges are to be supported.

It is voted and resolved, that the several towns in this colony, pay the persons by them respectively appointed to take an account of the number of polls and rateable estate in each town in the government, in the year of our Lord, 1747; and also the persons by them respectively appointed (in consequence of an act passed by the General Assembly, at their session in Providence, in October last,) to number the inhabitants of each town, whites, Indians and negroes; and that the account of all and every such person or persons, for his or their time, and so forth, in said affairs, be presented to their constituents, the town council, who are hereby empowered to examine the same, and give orders on their town treasurer for the payment of such sum or sums as they shall find justly due to the person or persons presenting his or their accounts, as aforesaid.

Whereas, Peter Bours, Edward Scott and George Wanton, Esqs., Mr. James Sheffield, the speaker and Stephen Hopkins, Esq., or the major part of them, were by this Assembly, at their session in Providence, the last Wednesday of October last, constituted a committee to sell for ready money, and to the best advantage, the bills of exchange then voted and resolved to be drawn by His Honor, the Governor, on Mr. Partridge, the colony's agent in Great Britain, for all their money in his hands; that when they had so done, they should exchange all the bills of credit of the neighboring governments they receive in pay for bills of credit of this colony, and bring the whole to this Assembly, to be burnt, in order to sink such of this colony's bills, as by acts of Assembly are to be first sunk; and the said committee, or the major part of

them, having assumed that province, and gone through the business, made the following report :

“ We, the subscribers, appointed in conjunction with Stephen Hopkins, Esq., by the Honorable General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, at their session in October past, to sell the government's money, in the hands of the agent Mr. Richard Partridge, do report, that we have sold bills on the said agent, to the amount of £7,800, at the rate of exchange of £1,050 currency, for £100 sterling ; and also, that we have received of Messrs. Oliver and Phillips, the sum of £3,150, old tenor, for the bill of £300, sterling, drawn on them by the said agent, as per account hereunto annexed.

PETER BOURS,  
EDWARD SCOTT,  
GEORGE WANTON,

JAMES SHEFFIELD,  
THOMAS CRANSTON.”

[Here follows a list of the bills of exchange drawn, amounting to £88,725 00 0.]

And forasmuch, as the committee, aforesaid, have delivered the said sum of £88,725, in bills of public credit (old tenor), emitted by this colony, unto the committee, by this Assembly appointed to receive and tell the same, and the said committee having received, told and brought the said bills hither, and they having been burnt in the presence of this Assembly ;—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Peter Bours, Edward Scott, George Wanton, James Sheffield, Thomas Cranston and Stephen Hopkins, be, and they are hereby discharged of the trust aforesaid.

Whereas, Robert Lawton, Jonathan Peck and Matthew Allen, Esqs., were, by the General Assembly, appointed a committee, to view the several places in Middletown, proposed for laying out a highway ; and having undertaken and performed that service, made report of their doings, on the back of the Assembly's vote, which qualified them ; which report, follows in these words :



“ We, the subscribers (the committee within named), having considered the affair to us committed, and pursued the direction to us given, as within written, do report, as follows, viz :

“ 1. That a drift way is sufficient ; and that there be no open highway, as prayed for, by the petitioners.

2. That the southwardmost place proposed to us, that is, from the double gate on the west side, to another gate on the east side of Easton's Neck, being the old accustomed way, is the place where said drift way shall be, in our opinion, with the greatest convenience.

Given under our hands, this 27th day of February, A. D. 1748.

ROBERT LAWTON,  
JONATHAN PECK,  
MATTHEW ALLEN.”

Which report, being duly considered, this Assembly do vote and resolve, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

God save the King. . .

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 2d day of May, 1749.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. John Gardner,

Mr. William Richmond,

Mr. William Burton,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Stephen Hopkins, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1749.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Capt. George Wanton,  
Mr. Joseph Whipple, Jr.,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Mr. James Sheffield.

*Providence.*

Mr. Jonathan Randall,  
Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
Mr. Elisha Brown,  
Mr. Daniel Jenckes.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Oliver Earl,  
Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.,  
Mr. John Allen,  
Mr. Benjamin Tucker.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,  
Mr. John Holden,  
Mr. John Greene,  
Capt. Amos Lockwood.

*Westerly.*

Capt. Silas Greenman,  
Mr. Joshua Babcock.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. John Littlefield,  
Mr. Abel Franklin.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Capt. Daniel Fones.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Robert Haszard,  
Mr. Rowland Robinson.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
Capt. Thomas Spencer.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Daniel Weeden,  
Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Lapham,  
Mr. John Aldrich.

*Scituate.*

Mr. Thomas Ralph,  
Mr. Thomas Hudson.

## DEPUTIES.

*Glocester.*  
 Mr. Richard Steere,  
 Maj. Richard Smith.  
*Charlestown.*  
 Col. Joseph Stanton,  
 Mr. James Congdon.  
*West Greenwich.*  
 Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
 Mr. George Gardner.  
*Coventry.*  
 Mr. James Colvin,  
 Mr. Benjamin Nichols.  
*Exeter.*  
 Capt. John Weight,  
 Mr. Benoni Gardner.  
*Middletown.*  
 Capt. Robert Barker,  
 Mr. Jonathan Easton.

*Bristol.*  
 Mr. Thomas Greene.  
*Twerton.*  
 Mr. John Howland,  
 Mr. Edward Wanton.  
*Little Compton.*  
 Mr. William Hall,  
 Mr. Nathaniel Searle.  
*Warren.*  
 Mr. James Smith,  
 Capt. Benjamin Barton.  
*Cumberland.*  
 Mr. Israel Whipple,  
 Mr. Job Bartlett.  
*Richmond.*  
 Mr. Joseph Clarke,  
 Mr. James Rogers.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged:

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,  
 Mr. Simon Pease,  
 Mr. William Burton,  
 Mr. Edward Kinnicut,tt,  
 Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
 Mr. James Arnold,  
 Mr. William Richmond,  
 Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
 Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, provide liquor, to the amount of £50, to entertain those gentlemen that shall attend the solemnity of proclaiming peace.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday in June, 1749.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Richard Partridge, agent for this colony, be allowed the sum of £100, for his extraordinary trouble in the affair of the controversy respecting the affair of the boundary line between the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and this colony; and that he be allowed two per cent. for receiving the money granted by the crown to this colony, for re-paying the charge of the Canada expedition; and that the agent give this colony credit for the £400 by him charged the 21st day of November, 1744, for future services, &c.; and that the charge of £82, in his account, for the losses in the bills drawn on this colony, in favor of Oliver & Phillips, be not allowed, until it be further explained by the agent; and that the rest of his whole account be allowed.

And that Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. Thomas Cranston and

Joseph Whipple, Jr., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee to draught a letter, to be perused by this Assembly, and signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to the agent; and that he be properly empowered by this colony, to receive the money of the lords of the treasury, or from whomsoever else it may be due, for the bills of exchange that this government shall have a right to draw, for what they have paid the soldiers raised for the intended expedition against Canada, that hath not been already refunded this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write a letter, in behalf of the government, to Sir Peter Warren, requesting that he would certify to the lords of the treasury, or where else it may be necessary, what may be within his knowledge of this government's sending the three companies raised for the intended expedition against Canada, to Annapolis Royal, by his and Governor Shirley's request; and that he would be pleased to use his kind offices in procuring for this government, a reimbursement of their expense.

“ We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, to take an inventory of the warlike and other stores, &c., belonging to the colony, do report according to said appointment, as followeth :

We viewed at Fort George, in the lower battery, viz. : twenty-five cannon, in carriages, twenty-five sponges with staffs, thirty-six crab handspikes, four ladles for the cannon, and four cannon wormers, eight hundred and seventy-four cannon shot. On the platform, &c., twelve cannon in carriages, etc., etc. etc.

JOHN TILLINGHAST,            JAMES SHEFFIELD.”  
THOMAS CRANSTON,

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[The report contains a minute account of all the military stores possessed by the colony, and of the places where kept; also, a list of the stores belonging to the sloop-of-war Tartar; among which, are fourteen carriage and twelve swivel guns. The report was accepted; the cannon, small arms and ammunition appropriated to various parts of the colony.]

And now, this Assembly, having duly considered the premises, do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and it is hereby accepted; and that all the stores therein mentioned, (excepting the musket balls, and also the powder in the cartouch boxes,) be forthwith sold at a public vendue, and the money arising thereby, be lodged in the general treasury; and that a commissary be appointed to take care of the colony's arms, and get them cleaned, and lodge them in the garret of the colony house, together with all other warlike stores belonging to the colony (excepting such only as properly belong to the fort, and the cannon and swivel guns, which belonged to the sloop Tartar); and that no more than six small arms be left at the fort.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to pay off the forces raised for the Canada expedition, do procure two regular attested copies of the muster-rolls of each company, and make oath to the truth of their having received the money for paying the soldiers; and that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby desired and empowered to send the same home to England, and forthwith to draw bills of exchange, payable to our agent, Mr. Partridge, for said money, on the lords of the treasury, or any other, on whom the payment of the same may be incumbent.

Whereas, Peter Bours, Esq., Messrs. Thomas Cranston and Joseph Whipple, Jr., were constituted a committee, to draught a letter to be perused by this Assembly, signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to the agent; and having performed the same, and exhibited their draught;—

It is voted and resolved, that a letter of the same purport be drawn, signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to the agent, together with a copy of the record of the money burnt at the last session of this Assembly, held at Providence; and likewise a copy of the act empowering His Honor, the Governor, to draw bills for what has, by the colony, been paid the soldiers raised for the Canada expedition.

God save the King.

[At the close of the October session, 1748, (p. 256,) a committee was appointed to answer the queries of the board of trade, relative to the population of the colony, etc. There is not among the records of the secretary's office, any copy of this report. The statement hereto annexed, is taken from "*Douglass' Summary, etc., of the first planting, progressive improvements and present state of the British settlements in North America.*" London, 1754. Vol. 2, p. 89. From its preciseness, it was doubtless copied from the original, in H. B. M. State Paper Office, in London.]

Townships.	1748 — 1749.							
	Proxies.	Representatives.	Justices.	Whites.	Negroes.	Indians.	Militia companies.	
Newport .....	96	6	9	5335	110	68	4	
Providence .....	32	4	13	3177	225	50	5	
Portsmouth .....	25	4	5	807	134	51	1	
Warwick .....	21	4	8	1513	176	93	3	
Westerly .....	23	12	6	1701	59	49	4	
New Shoreham .....	23	12	0	260	20	20	1	
North Kingstown, .....	30	12	7	1665	184	86	3	
South Kingstown, .....	21	12	5	1405	380	193	3	
Greenwich .....	17	12	6	956	61	27	2	
Jamestown .....	4	12	0	284	110	26	1	
Smithfield .....	45	12	5	400	30	20	3	
Scituate .....	58	12	4	1210	16	6	3	
Glocester .....	11	12	3	1194	8	.....	3	
Charlestown .....	9	12	3	641	58	303	1	
West Greenwich, .....	25	12	4	757	8	1	2	
Coventry .....	12	12	6	769	16	7	2	
Exeter .....	24	12	4	1103	63	8	2	
Middletown .....	20	12	4	586	76	18	1	
Bristol .....	13	12	5	928	128	13	1	
Tiverton .....	102	12	4	842	99	99	2	
Little Compton .....	107	12	5	1004	62	86	1	
Warren .....	82	12	4	600	50	30	1	
Cumberland .....	73	12	3	802	4	.....	1	
Richmond .....	11	12	5	500	5	3	1	
	888	58	119	28439	3077	1257	51	

*Governor Greene to Richard Partridge, Agent for Rhode Island, in London.*

Newport, June 18, 1749.

Sir:—The letters I have lately received from you, with that directed to the committee who disposed of the sterling money in your hands, have been communicated to the General Assembly, who have ordered me to inform you, that on examining

the accounts of your agency, they find £400 charged November 21st, 1744, as a reserve in your hands, for future services; for which, they judge you ought to have given credit, inasmuch as all the expenses from that time to this, which you have been at on the colony's behalf, are charged in your several accounts.

The article of £82, charged as a loss on the bills of exchange you drew, payable to Messrs. Oliver & Phillips, the Assembly expects a further explanation of the equity and reasonableness of, before they can readily allow of it.

And as to the article of commissions, for negotiating the affair of the money advanced by this government for the Canada expedition, they have voted you two per cent. for receiving the same; as they have also, £100, as a gratuity for your extraordinary trouble respecting the boundary line between the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and this colony; the remainder of your account seems to meet with approbation.

You have herewith sufficient power to qualify you in behalf of the government to receive the money we have advanced for paying the officers and soldiers raised for the Canada expedition, together with attested copies of the muster-rolls and the oaths of the committee, who received the money from the government to pay the same; and doubt not, as it was expended at the request of the Duke of Newcastle, in behalf of the crown, that we shall, on your application, be immediately reimbursed.

As to Mr. Lockman's petition, relating to the naval office, we doubt not but that the two acts of Parliament, made in King Charles 2d, and King William's reigns, relating to said office, will sufficiently vindicate the colony's conduct in rejecting his patent; and as to his aspersions so liberally cast on us, was his character as well known in London, as it is in Rhode Island, he would not have access to any public board, to spread his false reports, which it is obvious are only the result of his disappointment.

As to the bill in Parliament, relating to the paper currency, the Assembly expects you will strenuously oppose it; since, should it pass into a law, it would annihilate all the legislative power granted to this colony, in their charter; and, as we judge that we have not acted anything to forfeit those privileges, we hope on an impartial consideration, we shall not be stripped of them. The multiplicity of the paper bills emitted by New England, ought to be considered as owing, in a great degree, to the expeditions the inhabitants have engaged in, for His Majesty's service. Witness the undertaking in 1710, to reduce Port Royal and Canada, which first gave occasion for striking off bills of credit; and witness the remarkable Cape Breton exploit, which procured such an inundation of them from the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, which has overwhelmed that Province and the other governments of New England; also, and we would observe, that all the money allowed us on account of the Canada expedition, has been appropriated to the sending the whole amount thereof, in bills emitted by this colony, as will also that which is granted us by Parliament, for the Cape Breton undertaking, as soon as you shall have received it.

We are surprised at Governor Shirley's writing as you inform us he has, to the lords of the treasury; you have been informed that the chiefest part of the charge of the transports and provisions in our accounts, was owing to the attempts we made of succoring Nova Scotia, at the pressing instance of Mr. Shirley, in conjunction with Admiral Warren, and in obedience to His Majesty's instructions to



this colony, Anno 1745, copies of which you have herewith, to support those articles.

We are persuaded, on strict inquiry, you will find that all the expense the Province of the Massachusetts was at on the same occasion, and at that very time, has been by their Governor charged to the crown, and very likely paid to them before now; and as Admiral Warren was in Newport when our forces sailed for Annapolis, and assured us he would serve the government whenever in his power, the General Assembly have ordered me to address him for his friendly assistance in this case, and to desire him to declare before the board, who will inquire into these charges in our accounts, what he knows of the conduct of the colony relating to that undertaking. Enclosed, is a letter to him for that purpose, which you are to wait on him and to deliver yourself, if he be in London, and to inform him of the difficulties we are under, and to solicit his kind interposition to serve us as far as may be consistent with justice, which no doubt he will readily do.

Your assured friend,  
WILLIAM GREENE.

To Richard Partridge.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the third Monday in August, 1749.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Peter Bours, Simon Pease and George Wanton, Esqs., Messrs. Thomas Cranston and James Sheffield, were by this Assembly, at their last session, constituted a committee to audit the grand committee's accounts, and to receive of them what money was in their office, paid in for tenths; and also to receive of Jonathan Nichols, Esq., the £3,000 delivered to him by a former committee, to be exchanged, and burn the whole of said monies when by them so received; and to make report of their doings to this Assembly. And those gentlemen having performed that work, exhibited an account of the same by them stated, with their report thereon, as follows, to wit:

Mr. Benjamin Nichols, one of the grand committe,

To the colony of Rhode Island,

Dr.

		£ s. d.	
1745-6.	February.	To cash paid by Jahleel Brenton, Esq., . . . . .	1,600 00 0
1747.	June.	“ “ “ Messrs. Benjamin Haszard, Thos.	
“	“	To Cranston and John Channing, a committee .	
		appointed by the Assembly . . . . .	6,239 02 6
“	“	“ Mortgages and bonds, agreeing of the third	
		bank, delivered by Jahleel Brenton, Esq., . . . . .	22,394 17 3
“	“	“ Mortgages and bonds, agreeing of the fourth	
		bank, delivered by said Brenton . . . . .	86,648 08 0
“	“	“ A number of bonds without mortgages, of the	
		third and fourth banks . . . . .	2,388 19 7
“	“	“ Mortgages and bonds of the fifth bank . . . . .	101,397 10 0
“	“	“ Mortgages and bonds of the sixth bank . . . . .	101,966 00 0
“	“	“ Mortgages and bonds of the seventh bank in	
		[new tenor, £20,078 1s.	
“	“	“ “ “ reckoned in old tenor. . . . .	80,313 04 0
“	“	“ mortgages and bonds of the eighth bank, in	
		[new tenor, £40,001	
“	“	“ “ “ reckoned in old tenor, 160,004 00 0	
“	“	“ a number of bonds, delivered by Daniel Up-	
		dike, Esq., in May, 1746 . . . . .	12,029 12 0
			£524,975 13 4

Mr. Benjamin Nichols, of the grand committee,

To the colony of Rhode Island,

Cr.

£ s. d.

1746.	May 26.	By cash paid to Messrs. Samuel Wickham and	
		Abraham Redwood, a committee appointed by	
		the General Assembly, who burnt the same, as	
		per report made . . . . .	1,600 00 00
1747.	June 11.	“ cash paid to Messrs. Benjamin Haszard, Thomas	
		Cranston and John Channing, a committee ap-	
		pointed by the General Assembly, who burnt the	
		same, as per report . . . . .	21,241,13 00
“	“	“ cash paid to Messrs. Jas. Sheffield and Thos. Cran-	
		ston, a committee appointed by the General As-	
		sembly, who burnt the same, as per report made . . . . .	16,700 00 00
1749.	Aug. 15.	“ cash paid to Messrs. Peter Bours, Simon Pease,	
		George Wanton, Thomas Cranston and James	
		Sheffield, a committee appointed by the General	
		Assembly, to receive and burn the same . . . . .	26,722 02 10
		Balance in Mr. Benjamin Nichols' hands, . . . . .	458,711 17 06
			£524,975 13 04

" We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, a committee, to audit the grand committee's accounts, and to receive what money was in the grand committee's office, paid in for tenths, and to burn the same; and also to receive of Capt. Jonathan Nichols the £3,000 delivered to him by a former committee, to be exchanged, do report:

That we have carefully examined into the lists of the mortgages and bonds, in the office; and also the sums which have been paid into, and delivered out of said office, since the time that Jahleel Brenton, Esq., resigned the same, and do find, that there is at present in the hands of Mr. Benjamin Nichols, as a balance, £458,711 17s. 6d., as appears by the above account. We also report, that there is in said Nichols' custody, a number of mortgage deeds, without bonds to match them, amounting to £38,639 12s. 4d., agreeably to a list of them taken when said Jahleel Brenton, Esq., delivered them to Capt. Jonathan Nichols, his successor. We do further report, that we have received of the aforesaid Benjamin Nichols, £26,722 2s. 10d., old tenor, as he is credited for in the foregoing account, (including in said sum, £88 said Benjamin Nichols paid to Joseph Turpin, by order of Assembly, for the same sum lost by him, of this colony's money,) which we have burnt, pursuant to the act of Assembly; and that we cannot find that there were £3,000 delivered to Capt. Jonathan Nichols by any former committee, but suppose the mistake to arise from the article of £6,239 2s. 6d., paid to Mr. Benjamin Nichols, as he stands charged with in the account above stated.

All which, we submit to the Honorable General Assembly.

PETER BOURS,  
SIMON PEASE,  
THOMAS CRANSTON,

GEORGE WANTON,  
JAMES SHEFFIELD,

Newport, August 19, 1749.

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the same be, and it hereby is accepted; and that the account by said committee charged against the colony, for their time, trouble, &c., in auditing the aforementioned accounts, be allowed; and the amount thereof, being £112 10s., paid them out of the general treasury.

Whereas, James Mussey, of Mendon, represented to this Assembly, that at the session thereof, in August and October, 1748, Daniel Jenckes, Henry Harris and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., were appointed commissioners, they, or the major part of them, to run the northern boundary line of this colony, from the stake set up by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, in the year 1642, as by said acts may appear; but as the said

commissioners have hitherto neglected to perform said work, according to the intent of said acts, the aforesaid James Mussey, and others, who are now under the jurisdiction and government of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay (as they apprehend, wrongfully,) prayed that this Assembly would, at their present session, be pleased to appoint three or more such gentlemen, commissioners, to run the northern boundary line of this colony, according to charter, who will undertake said business, and go through with it, according to an agreement made between the commissioners of this colony, and one of, and for said Province, January 19, 1710-11; that they may be under the jurisdiction and government of this colony, as they think by charter, they ought;—

On consideration whereof, it is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid petition be, and it is hereby granted; and that Jonathan Randall, Thomas Lapham and Richard Steere, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee to run the above mentioned line; and they also are fully empowered to appoint a surveyor or surveyors, and chainmen; and to appoint time and place to begin said work; and that the secretary acquaint the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, of this act being passed; and to request them to appoint a committee to join with ours, in running said line; and that if none be appointed by said Province, that our committee proceed and run said line *ex parte*.

An Act for laying a drift-way through part of Middletown.

Whereas, it is necessary that there should be a way for His Majesty's subjects to pass and re-pass from that part of Middletown, in the county of Newport, called Sachmeast Beach, across to Easton's Beach, for the want of which, the inhabitants of Little Compton and Middletown, are greatly hindered in passing to and from Newport, no public way ever having been provided and laid out;—

Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of this General Assembly, that there shall be a drift-way of a convenient breadth, laid out by the town of Middle-

town, from the double gate on the west side, to another gate on east side of Easton's Neck (being the old accustomed way); and that the town council of Middletown are hereby required to lay out said drift-way, within one month from the rising of this General Assembly, in the manner and under the directions, that highways are laid out in this colony, agreeably to the laws now in force in this colony; and that the same shall be done at the charge of the said town of Middletown; and that if there be any persons' land to be run through, in laying out said way, who will not grant the same for the said public use, that the said town council do proceed to agree with said proprietor or owner thereof, and pay therefor in the same manner as is directed by other laws made for laying out highways in this colony.

And be it enacted, that the said drift-way so to be laid, shall, when laid out, be, and remain a public drift-way, for the use of His Majesty's subjects, for ever.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown the last Wednesday in October, 1749.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Messrs. Daniel Updike, James Honeyman, Jr, Matthew Robinson and John Aplin, attornies at law, by a memorial under their hands, have represented unto this Assembly, that the judges of the superior court of judicature, &c., in this colony, have, of late, judicially determined that the statues of that part of Great Britain, formerly called England, are not in force in this government, except such as are introduced by

some law of the colony ; and this, notwithstanding that in all time heretofore, the courts throughout the colony, both superior and inferior, have admitted such of the said statutes as relate to the common law, to be in force here, and have adjudged upon them as such, so that there has been no occasion of an act of Assembly for the formal introduction of those statutes ; but, as the case now stands, the laws of this colony are altogether imperfect, and rarely any one law proceeding can be commenced or brought to issue ;—

And now this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration, do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the memorialists be, and they are hereby constituted a committee to prepare a bill for introducing into this colony, such of the statutes of England as are agreeable to the constitution, and present the same to this Assembly at their next session.

Whereas, several bills of exchange drawn by His Honor, the Governor, in behalf of this colony, on Mr. Agent Partridge, were protested ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, draw new bills on the agent, for the sums contained in those bills, which already have been, or hereafter may be protested ; together with the lawful damages and interest accruing thereon, and lodge them with the general treasurer.

It is also voted and resolved, that the proprietors of said protested bills, receive of the treasurer those new bills in lieu of the old ones, if they think proper ; but if any of the proprietors of said protested bills, shall choose to have currency for them, they shall be paid by the treasurer at the rate of £950 per cent. advance ; and for raising said money, those new bills, if refused by the proprietors of the old ones, shall be disposed of by the treasurer, to other persons.

And it is further voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, write to the agent, directing him to honor those new bills which shall be drawn on him, as aforesaid ; and if he has not cash in his hands belonging to the government, sufficient to pay the same, that he hire what shall be wanting, upon the

best terms he can, until he be in cash of the colony's, for paying the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Stephen Hopkins and Daniel Jenckes, Esqs., with Capt. Robert Haszard, be, and they, or the major part of them, are constituted a committee to prepare an account (agreeably to the letter of the Duke of Bedford, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, to the Governor and Company of this colony),\* of the tenor and amount of all the bills of credit which have been created and issued by this government, and are now outstanding; distinguishing the amount of them here; and the respective times when such bills so outstanding, were issued, with the amount of the said bills in money of Great Britian, both at the times when such were issued, and at this time; and also at the time fixed for calling in, sinking, and discharging such bills, and the funds appropriated for that purpose; and that the said committee present the said account to be by them so prepared, unto this Assembly, at their next session.

God save the King.

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*\* The Duke of Bedford to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, July 19, 1749.

Gentlemen:—Upon the 30th of May last, the House of Commons presented an humble address to the King, desiring “that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to give directions that there be laid before that House, in the next session of Parliament, an account of the tenor and amount of all the bills of credit, which have been created and issued in the several British colonies and plantations in America, as well those under proprietors and charters, as under His Majesty's immediate commission and government, that shall be then outstanding; distinguishing the amount of the same, in each colony or plantation; and the respective times, when such bills, so outstanding, were issued, with the amount of the said bills in money of Great Britain, both at the times when such bills were issued, and at the time of preparing the said account; and also the times fixed for the calling in, sinking and discharging such bills, and the funds appropriated for that purpose.”

And I am now, in consequence thereof, commanded by His Majesty, to signify his pleasure to you, that you should order all such accounts, so far as they relate to

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1749, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act for the meeting and sitting of the superior court, in Providence (January.)

An Act to prevent hogs going at large in the compact parts of Newport and Providence. (February.)

An Act to prevent the fish being stopped in their course up Pawcatuck river. (February.)

An Act for the relief of insolvent debtors that are or shall be imprisoned. (February.)

An Act appointing a committee to build a light house on Beaver Tail, in Jamestown. (February.)

An Act enabling the clerks of the inferior courts in the colony for the time being, to surrogate and appoint deputies under them. (June.)

An Act ascertaining how payment shall be made for erecting a light house on Beaver Tail. (June.)

An Act for regulating the light house. (August.)

An Act against adultery, polygamy and unlawfully marrying persons; and for the relief of such persons as are injured by the breach of marriage covenants. (October.)

An Act to prevent unlawful gaming. (October.)

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Tuesday in February, 1749-50.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Jonathan Randal, Thomas Lapham and Richard Steere, Esqs., were by the General Assembly of this colony, at

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your government, to be prepared and transmitted forthwith to me, that I may lay the same before His Majesty, and receive his farther pleasure thereupon, with regard to their being laid before Parliament.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

BEDFORD.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.



their session in Newport, the third Monday in August last, appointed a committee to run the northern boundary line of this colony, according to the charter, &c., and the gentlemen aforementioned, having gone through that work, made the following report of their conduct :

*Report on the the Northern Boundary Line.*

“ To the Honorable General Assembly, at South Kingstown, in and for the colony of Rhode Island, on the last Tuesday of February, Anno Domini 1749.

In pursuance of a commission to us given, for running the northern boundary line of this colony, according to charter, &c., the commission bearing date September the 25th, 1749, we did seasonably inform the secretary of this colony that we had appointed to meet at Man's, in Wrentham, on the 9th day of October, following, when we would meet with a committee of the Province, if any should be appointed, and proceed on the business aforementioned; and we did accordingly meet on the said 9th day of October, at said Man's, together with Henry Harris, Esq., surveyor, and Israel Wilkinsen and Christopher Waterman, chainmen, ready to proceed on the business; but no committee from the Province appearing, we postponed the business intended, till the 30th of said October; when we met again, and no person appearing on the part of the Province, we did then effect the business we met on; concerning which, we do report as followeth :

That we not being able to find any stake, or other monument, which we could imagine to be set up by Woodward and Saffery, but knowing that the place thereof was described in the agreement mentioned in our commission, by certain invariable marks, we did proceed as followeth, viz. :

We found a place where Charles river formed a large crescent southerly; which place is known to many, by the name of Poppotatick Pond, which we took to be the southernmost part of said river; from the southernmost part whereof, we measured three English miles south, which three English miles did terminate upon a plain, in a township called Wrentham, about a quarter of a mile north-easterly from the dwelling house of Thomas Man's; as also about a quarter of a mile south-easterly from the house of Robert Blake, where we marked a pine tree, and erected a monument of stones, and found the same to be in latitude forty-two degrees eight minutes north; which we made for the north-east bound of this colony.

And we do further report, that from said tree, we did proceed to run the northern boundary line of this colony on a west course, with a variation of eight degrees and a half, as the west variation from the magnetic needle; in the course of which running, we did mark many trees; said line passing over the southernmost part of a certain pond, called Manchaug Pond, and did terminate about thirty rods eastward of a small pond, called Grassy Pond, at a black oak tree, which we marked; and did erect a monument of stones about it; which tree, we marked for the north-western bounds of this colony, it being about twenty-two miles from said pine tree to said black oak.

Reported and humbly submitted by

JONATHAN RANDALL,  
RICHARD STEERE,  
THOMAS LAPHAM.

Providence, January 22d, 1749-50.”

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration ;—

Do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in Newport, on the third Monday of August last, appointed commissioners to run the northern boundary line of this colony, with directions, that if the commissioners should not be appointed on the part of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, to join with them therein, they should proceed to run said line *ex parte*. As no commissioners were appointed by the Province in season, the gentlemen appointed by the colony, run the said line *ex parte*, and made report thereof to this Assembly, which hath been accepted. But nevertheless, upon advice from the Province, that they have appointed commissioners since our committee run the line, as aforesaid ;—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that Jonathan Randall, Richard Steere and Thos. Lapham, Esqs., and Capt. Joseph Harrison, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, and fully empowered to join with the commissioners of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, at Pelatiah Man's in Wrentham, the second Tuesday of April next, to run or perambulate the northern boundary line of this colony, according to charter, from the stake set up by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, in the year 1642, pursuant to agreement made between the commissioner of this colony, and one of, and for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, January the 19th, in the year 1710–11, with full power to appoint a surveyor or surveyors, and chainmen.

And it is also voted and resolved, that the gentlemen on the part of the colony, be commissioned for the end and purpose aforesaid, by His Honor, the Governor.

Whereas, the town council of Middletown, in this colony, have represented unto this Assembly, that on consideration of the necessity of a way for His Majesty's subjects to pass and re-pass from that part of Middletown, called Sachneast Beach,

across to Easton's Beach, the General Assembly, at their session in Newport, the third Monday of August last, did order and direct that there should be a drift-way of a convenient width laid out by the said town of Middletown, from the double gate on the west side, to another gate on the east side of Easton's Neck, being the old accustomed way, &c.; since which, it hath been discovered that the land from the said double gate, westerly, down to the creek, on Easton's Beach, belongeth to private persons, as likewise does the land to the eastward of the other gate, aforementioned, for some small distance, so that it will be to no purpose to lay out a drift-way from one of the said gates to the other, unless the same be extended farther each way :

Whereupon, they prayed this Assembly to empower them to lay out a drift-way from the creek, on Easton's Beach, to the double gate, aforesaid ; and from thence easterly down to, and along Sachneast Beach, until it comes to that part of said Beach, which was reserved by the town of Middletown, for all persons whomsoever to pass and re-pass over, as often as occasion should require, forever ; and this Assembly taking the premises into consideration, do grant the said petition ;—

And it is voted and resolved, that the said town council of Middletown, be, and they are hereby empowered to lay out a drift-way from the creek on Easton's Beach, to the double gate, aforesaid ; and from thence, to the other gate, aforesaid ; and from thence, easterly, down to, and along said Sachneast Beach, until it comes to that part of said Sachneast Beach, reserved by the town of Middletown for all persons, whomsoever, to pass and re-pass over as often as occasion shall require, forever.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session, in South Kingstown, on the last Wednesday of October last, appointed a committee to prepare an account (agreeably to the letter of the Duke of Bedford, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state to the Governor and Company of this colony,) of the tenor and amount of all the bills of credit which have been created and issued by this government, and are now outstand-

ing, &c., and the major part of the committee having assumed that province, and perpetrated the business, made report to this Assembly, as followeth :

“ The colony of Rhode Island, in the year 1728, emitted £40,000, in bills of public credit, equal then to £12,800 sterling, to be let on loans on land security of double the value, and at five per cent. per annum interest, for thirteen years ; the interest was appropriated to the repairing and furnishing Fort George ; the principal to be sunk by ten equal annual payments ; two of which are yet outstanding, equal to £727 5s. 6d. sterling ; and the sinking thereof, will be completed in the year 1751.

And in the year 1731, the colony emitted £60,000, in bills of public credit, equal then to £16,841 17s. 4d. sterling, to be let out on loan on land security, of double the value, at five per cent. per annum interest, for ten years ; the interest was appropriated to encourage raising hemp, flax and the catching of fish and making oil, by proper bounties given by the emitting act ; the principal to be sunk by ten equal payments ; two of which are yet outstanding, equal to £1,090 18s. 3d. sterling ; and the sinking of it will be finished in the year 1751.

And in the year 1733, the colony emitted £100,000, in bills of public credit, equal to £25,396 16s. sterling, to be let out on loan, on land security, of double the value, and at five per cent. per annum interest, for ten years ; the interest was to be appropriated to purchasing of cannon for Fort George, and erecting a pier at Block Island ; the principal to be sunk by ten equal annual payments ; four of which are yet outstanding, equal to £3,627 5s. 6d. sterling ; and the sinking of this sum will be completed in the year 1753.

Again, in the year 1733, the colony emitted £100,000, in bills of public credit, equal then to £19,753 1s. 4d. sterling, to be let on loan, on land security, of double the value, at five per cent. per annum interest, for ten years ; the interest was appropriated to the building of a state house, for the colony, and a light house, for the benefit of navigation ; the principal to be sunk by ten equal annual payments ; nine of which are yet outstanding, equal now to £8,181 16s. 4d. sterling ; and the sinking of this sum will be completed in the year 1758.

Again, in the year 1740, the colony emitted £20,000, in bills of a new tenor, equal to £80,000 of their former bills, and to 15,802 8s. sterling, to be let out on loan, on land security, of double the value, on interest, for ten years, at four per cent per annum ; the interest appropriated to building a guard sloop for the colony, and paying the colony's expenses in the expedition to the West Indies ; the principal to be sunk by ten equal annual payments, the whole of which is now outstanding ; and is equal to £7,272 14s. 6d. sterling ; the sinking of this sum will be completed in the year 1760.

And lastly, in the year 1743, the colony emitted £40,000, of the new tenor bills, equal to £160,000, in bills of the old tenor ; and to £28,444 5s. 4d. sterling, to be let out on loan, on land security, of double the value, to pay interest ten years, at four per cent. per annum ; which was appropriated to put the colony in a posture of defence, during the war ; the principal to be paid in ten equal annual payments ; and the whole of this sum is now outstanding, and is now equal to £14,545 9s. 1d. sterling ; and the sinking of it will be completed in the year 1763.

At divers times, from the year 1710, to the year 1747, the colony has emitted bills

of credit to the amount of £312,300, old tenor; and there hath been called in and burnt, at several times from the year 1728 to 1748, £176,964 6s. 10d.; and by the last settlement of the general treasurer's account, it appears that there was then in the public treasury, £24,891 10s. 10d., from all which, it appears that there is now outstanding of the bills issued to supply the treasury, £110,444 2s. 3d.; the whole of which outstanding sum, was issued in the years 1746 and 1747, and is equal to £10,640 7s. 5d. sterling.

And the Parliament having granted to this colony, for their services in the Cape Breton expedition, £6,332 12s. 10d. sterling, and the colony having paid, by order of the crown, the wages of the officers and soldiers raised for the Canada expedition, £3,000 sterling, the said two sums being £9,332 12s. 10d. sterling, are a fund for sinking so much of the colony's outstanding bills; and the remainder being £708 14s. 7d. sterling, is to be called in and sunk, by a tax on the inhabitants of this colony.

The reason of the great depreciation observable in the bills issued by this colony, is, because the inhabitants of New England constantly consume a much greater quantity of British manufactures than their exports are able to pay for; which makes such a continual demand for gold, silver and bills of exchange, to make remittances with, that the merchants, to procure them, are always bidding one upon another, and thereby daily sink the value of paper bills, with which they purchase them.

And it is plain, that where the balance of trade is against any country, that such part of their medium of exchange as hath universal currency, will leave them; and such part of their medium as is confined to that country, will sink in its value, in proportion as the balance against them is to their trade; for what hath been the case with Rhode Island bills, hath also been the common fate of all the paper bills issued by the other colonies of New England; they having been all emitted at near equal value, and have always passed at par one with another, and consequently have equally sunk in their value.

And this will always be the case with infant countries, that do not raise so much as they consume; either to have no money, or if they have, it must be worse than that of their richer neighbors, to compel it to stay with them."

Which report, being duly considered, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, transmit the substance thereof, under his hand, to Mr. Agent Partridge, to be by him delivered to His Grace, the Duke of Bedford, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in answer to His Grace's letter to this colony, about the bills of public credit emitted here, &c.; and also that a duplicate thereof, be sent to the said agent, for his own use.

And at the same time, the committee aforesaid, presented with their report, what follows:

The colony for all the money emitted for supply of the treasury,			Dr.
1710.	May.	To cash emitted.....	£5,000
"	October.	" " "	1,000
"	November.	" " "	1,000
1711.	June.	" " "	6,000
"	November.	" " "	300
1726.	June.	" " "	46,000
1728.	June.	" " "	2,000
1750.	February.	" " "	1,000
1733.	July.	" " "	4,000
1737.	June.	" " "	30,000
1738.	May.	" " "	10,000
1740.	September.	" " "	10,000
1741.	May.	" " "	8,000
"	October.	" " "	8,000
1744.	March.	" " "	10,000
1745.	May.	" " "	15,000
"	September.	" " "	20,000
1746.	June.	" " "	45,000
"	February.	" " "	60,000
1747.	February.	" " "	30,000
			£312,300

## For what has been burnt, Cr.

	£	s.	d.
1727. June. By cash burnt at several times before this date, as appears by a settlement of the general treasurer,	12,550	00	00
1728. By cash burnt this year .....	9,019	16	10
1729. " " .....	3,604	07	09
1730. " " .....	6,430	10	07½
1731. " " .....	1,376	13	06
1732. " " .....	2,381	06	01½
1733. " " .....	3,946	02	06
1734. " " .....	1,015	13	01
1736. " " .....	3,525	09	00½
1737. " " .....	4,042	02	05
1738. " " .....	26,269	15	10
1739. " " .....	14,077	09	02
1748. " " .....	88,725	00	00
			£176,964 06 10½
Balance due from the colony .....	135,335	13	01½
			£312,300 00 00

"We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, to inquire into the state of the bills of public credit, that have at any time been emitted by the colony of Rhode Island, do report :

That the colony hath issued for the supply of the general treasury, at the times noted on the debt side of the above account, £312,300; and that there hath been burnt at the times noted on the credit side of this account, £176,964 6s. 10d.; and that there is now circulating of bills of credit emitted by the colony, for a supply of the treasury, £135,335 13s. 1d.

PETER BOURS,  
STEPHEN HOPKINS,  
DANIEL JENCKES."

Newport, February 27, 1749.

And this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration, do vote and resolve, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

*Governor Greene to the Duke of Bedford and to Richard Partridge.*

Newport, Rhode Island, March 13, 1849.

Sir:—Conformably to an act of the General Assembly, I send you enclosed a letter to His Grace, the Duke of Bedford, with an account of the bills of public credit, issued by this colony, as was demanded by His Majesty.

You have also a copy of the same, for your own use. As you are intimately acquainted with the situation of affairs among us, I have no occasion to add any instructions. The zeal wherewith you have always applied yourself to what the colony have committed to your charge, takes away even the color of a doubt what your behaviour will be on the present occasion.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,  
W. GREENE.

To Richard Partridge, Esq., agent for Rhode Island, London.

*Governor Greene to the Duke of Bedford.*

Colony of Rhode Island, March 13th, 1749.

May it please Your Grace:—I had the honor of your letter of the 19th of July, signifying it was His Majesty's pleasure, to have "an account of the tenor and amount of all the bills of credit which have been created and issued by this colony, and are now outstanding; distinguishing the same, and the respective times, when such bills so outstanding, were issued, with the amount of said bills in money of Great Britain, both at the times when such bills were issued, and at the time of preparing the said account; and also the times for calling in, sinking and discharging such bills, and the funds appropriated for that purpose."

Your Grace's letter came to hand in the recess of the General Assembly; but, at their next meeting, in October, I laid it before them.

As this colony hath always heretofore exemplified their loyalty by a cheerful obedience to His Majesty's commands, so on this occasion, they no sooner received the royal directions, than they determined to pursue them.

For that purpose, a committee was appointed, with orders to inquire into the premises, and make report at the next session, which they accordingly did a few days ago. The Assembly having carefully examined the doings of their committee

found such an account as His Majesty commanded ; wherefore, they accepted the same, and desired me to transmit Your Grace a copy of it.

I send it, accordingly ; and in behalf of this colony, subscribe myself, may it please Your Grace,

Your Grace's most obedient and humble servant,

W. GREENE.

To the Duke of Bedford, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

Whereas, this General Assembly, at their session in October last, appointed Mr. Elisha Brown, Joseph Nichols, Esq. and Mr. Samuel Chace, or the major part of them, a committee, to audit the accounts of the managers or directors of the Providence Lottery, in respect to the building Weybosset Bridge, and paying the benefit tickets ; and also to receive such benefit tickets as have been paid, &c., in consequence of which appointment, the committee made the following report unto this Assembly :

*Report of the Lottery Committee.*

“ We, the subscribers, being chosen a committee, by the Honorable General Assembly, in October last, to examine the directors' accounts, concerning the Providence Lottery, do find them thus :

“ The several gentlemen directors, Dr.  
To cash obtained by them in the lottery granted by the Assembly.....£12,000

	Contra.	Cr.
By as many benefit tickets paid to the several adventurers, as amounts to the sum of .....		£11,650
And for which, we have given receipts to the several directors.		
The balance yet due to the other adventurers, not paid by said directors, amounts to the sum of.....		350
		£12,000

Errors excepted. Per  
ELISHA BROWN,  
SAMUEL CHACE,  
JOSEPH NICHOLS,

Providence, February 16, 1849.

Committee.

The several gentlemen directors, Dr.  
£ d. s.

To cash lodged in their hands, by means of the lottery, for building  
Weybosset Bridge ..... £3,000 00 0



	Contra.	Cr.
By the whole of their accounts, for work done on said bridge, as now complete, examined, amounting to the sum of.....		1,610 07 4
The balance yet in their hands, due to the bridge is .....		1,389 12 8
		£3,000 00 0
Errors excepted. Per		ELISHA BROWN, SAMUEL CHACE, JOSEPH NICHOLS,
Providence, February 26, 1749.		Committee.

And now this Assembly, having taken said report into consideration, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted.

And it is also further voted and resolved, that the said committee be, and they are hereby directed and empowered to burn the benefit tickets by them received of the aforesaid managers or directors of the Providence Lottery, in respect to the building Weybosset bridge; and that thereupon, they be discharged from the receipt they gave the said managers or directors, for the said tickets.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session in South Kingstown, on the last Monday of February, 1747, chose and appointed George Wanton, Esq., Messrs. James Sheffield and Thomas Cranston, a committee, to inspect into the double mortgages in the grand committee's office; and also, to inspect into the bonds in said office.

In consequence of which appointment, the said George Wanton, James Sheffield and Thomas Cranston, having undertaken the business, made the following report of their progress therein:

[Here follows a memorandum of mortgages and bonds.]

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in October last, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for introducing into this colony, such of the statutes of England, as are agreeable to the constitution, and make report of their doings, the greatest part of whom, presented what followeth:

“ We, the subscribers, being appointed to report what statutes of Great Britain are, and ought to be in force in this colony, do report as followeth: that the following statutes, viz.:

The statute of Merton, concerning dower.

The statute of Westminster the first, as far as it concerns bail.

The statute of Gloucester.

The statute of Westminster the second, de donis conditionalibus.

The statutes of the 1st Henry V., of additions.

The statutes of partition, in general.

The statutes of the 32 Henry VIII., concerning leases, saving and excepting the last paragraph of the said statute.

The statutes of 21 James I., chapter 16th, for limiting real actions; and that of 32 Henry VIII., chapter 2d.

The statutes of James and Elizabeth, and all statutes that concern bastardy, as applicable to the constitution of this colony.

All statutes that are against criminal offenders, so far as they are descriptive of the crime; and where the law of this colony hath not described and enjoined the punishment, then that part of the statute that relates to the punishment, also; always saving and excepting such statutes, as from the nature of the offences mentioned in them, are confined to Great Britain, only.

The statute of Henry III., commonly called the statute of uses.

The statute of 29 Charles II., commonly called the statute of frauds and perjuries.

The statutes of 22 and 23 Charles II., chapter 10th, for distributing the estates of intestates.

The statute of 3 and 4 William and Mary, chapter 14th.

The statute of 4 and 5 Anne, chapter 16th, relating to joint tenants, and tenants in common.

That part of the statute of — Anne, that subjects lessees that hold over their term against the will of the lessor, to the payment of double rent, during the time they hold over.

All statutes relating to the poor, and relating to masters and their apprentices; so far as they are applicable in this colony, and where we have no law of the colony.

All which statutes, we are humbly of opinion have heretofore been, and still ought to be in force in this colony.

D. UPDIKE,  
J. HONEYMAN, JR.,  
J. ALPIN.”

And this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration, do vote and resolve, that all and every of the statutes, aforesaid, be, and they are hereby introduced into this colony, and shall be in full force therein, until the General Assembly shall order otherwise.

His Honor, the Governor, is hereby requested to write to the government of the Massachusetts, and inform them that this Assembly have appointed a committee to meet and join the

gentlemen appointed by the Province, for running the northern boundary line of the colony. His Honor is also desired to request of the Province, that all taxes assessed, or that shall be assessed on persons inhabiting any lands to the southward of the line lately run by our commissioners, be not collected or levied, till the dividing line be run and mutually settled; His Majesty having given such directions, since the controversy arose between the two governments, respecting their boundaries.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Whipple, Jr., Thomas Cranston and John Tillinghast, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to receive of the gentlemen (who were formerly appointed to pay off the soldiers raised for the expedition intended against Canada,) their accounts with the colony, and to adjust the same, and receive the balance, and make report to this Assembly at their next session, of their conduct in the affair.

It is voted and resolved, that the grand committee and general treasurer, be, and they are hereby directed not to receive any bills of credit of the Province of New Hampshire, in discharge of any of the colony's mortgages and bonds.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session in Newport, the third Monday of August last, appointed Peter Bours, Simon Pease and George Wanton, Esqs., Messrs. Thomas Cranston and James Sheffield, or the major part of them, a committee to inspect (among other things) into the circumstances of all the mortgages and bonds in the grand committee's office, and notify the inhabitants of the colony, by printed advertisements, that all persons who have not given in tenth bonds for the money they took up of the banks emitted in the years 1715, 1728 and 1731, if they did not forthwith pay the money already due, and give in bonds for the remainder, they might depend upon their mortgages being put in suit; the committee were also to insert in the advertisements, a list of all the persons who had neglected to give bond, as aforesaid. The advertisements were ordered to be put up at the places where the town meetings are held, in the several towns, that all persons

who had any reasons to offer, why they did not give bond, as aforesaid, might justify themselves to the said committee, and their mortgages in the meantime should be laid aside, and not put in suit.

And whereas, those gentlemen have not perfected the business to which they were appointed ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved by this Assembly, that the said committee be, and they are hereby further continued for the ends and purposes aforesaid ; that they take notice of all the banks emitted by the colony, and insert in the advertisements, that in case the persons who have not given tenth bonds in any of the banks, do not pay what money is due, and give bonds for the remainder, within six months after the 3d day of March, 1749, their mortgages shall forthwith be put in suit ; and that the said committee send a copy of the whole list of the mortgages (on which no bonds are given,) to each of the town clerks in the colony ; and insert in the advertisements, only the names of the persons deficient, in each respective town, and send the same to the respective town clerks, to be by them set up in manner as aforesaid.

Whereas, sundry inhabitants of this colony, represented unto this Assembly, that the great bridge at Pawtuxet Falls, in the county of Providence, is very much decayed, the long string pieces and caps being so rotten, that it will not be safe to pass over it, in a little time ; and as the said bridge stands on the main country road, much used by the inhabitants, as well as other travellers, and the post, it is absolutely necessary that something should be done, concerning the same ; whereupon, they prayed a public lottery might be set up, in order to raise a sum of money sufficient to build a new bridge, with stone abutments at each end, and a stone cage in the middle of the river, which will be durable, and last a long while, with but little charge to maintain it afterwards ;—

And this Assembly, considering the absolute necessity of keeping up a good bridge at Pawtuxet Falls, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said petition be,

and it is hereby granted; and to that end, a public lottery shall be set up, according to the following scheme :

[Here follows the schedule of the lottery.]

An Act for the regulation of the money raised by lottery to build Weybosset bridge.

Whereas, there is now in the hands of the directors of said lottery, £1,389 12s. 8d., over and above what hath been expended in building said bridge, which at present yields no advantage to the colony, or to said bridge; and as said sum is part of the £3,000 originally appropriated for the use of said bridge;—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted, that the said directors pay into the hands of Mr. Joseph Sheldon, who is hereby appointed to receive the said sum, and give the said directors receipts for it; and that he put it out to interest, at six per cent. per annum, and keep the same, and the interest thereof, so at interest, for the future.

And it is further enacted, that the said Joseph Sheldon deliver out of said money to Mr. Daniel Smith, who is hereby appointed to have the care and oversight of said Weybosset bridge, and repair and amend the same, as occasion shall require, such sums of money as may be necessary for that purpose, and take the said Smith's receipts for the same.

Whereas, this General Assembly, at their session in Warwick, on the third Monday of August, in the year of our Lord 1735, did, upon the petition of the inhabitants of the town of Westerly, pass an act for turning the course of Pawcatuck river into a large pond, in said Westerly, thereby to keep open the breach, and form a harbor, &c., three quarters of the charges thereof to be paid out of the general treasury, on condition the said town of Westerly, or any person in their behalf, would first procure and give sufficient bond to pay and discharge the other fourth part of the charge; and also to make and maintain such and so many bridges as there should ever be occa-

sion to make across said river, between the place where it should be taken from its usual channel, and the place where it would fall into said pond; for the performing whereof, Messrs. Joseph Stanton, Oliver Babcock, Samuel Perry and Samuel Clarke, were appointed a committee, &c.; and as the town of Westerly, or any other person in their behalf, have not from that time till this present session, given bond for the said town's performing the conditions aforesaid,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the committee aforesaid, do nothing in the affair before the next session of this Assembly; and the general treasurer is hereby directed and ordered to pay no money out of the general treasury for the purposes aforesaid, before that time.

Whereas, the Honorable Spencer Phips, Esq., Lieutenant Governor of the Massachusetts, wrote a letter to our Governor, requesting payment for transporting prisoners belonging to this colony, from Canada; \*—

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\* *From Lieut. Gov. Phips, of Massachusetts, to Gov. Greene, of Rhode Island.*

Boston, November 9th, 1749.

Sir:—I am informed that His Excellency, Governor Shirley, had settled an agreement with the Governor of Canada, (so far as related to this government,) that the charge of transporting English prisoners should be defrayed by the English governments, and the charge of transporting the French prisoners by their government; and that upon His Excellency's informing the governors of the neighboring colonies, the most of them had signified their approbation of this method.

I am likewise informed, that in the year 1746, there were brought into this Province, in a flag of truce, sent by the Governor of Canada, called the La Vierge de Grace, a great number of English captives, some of them being Europeans, but the most of them belonging to the English provinces and colonies in America; and that about the same time, His Excellency had sent a flag of truce to Canada, with French prisoners, at the expense of this government; and that His Excellency sent circular letters to the governors of the English colonies, aforementioned, with lists of the several prisoners belonging to their respective governments, wherein he informed them, that as soon as the accounts of the charges of the flags of truce and the proportions of the several English governments thereto were adjusted, he would send them to the said governors, that so they might reimburse the Governor of

On consideration whereof, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that Mr. Thos. Cranston inquire into the proper offices, whether any thing hath been already paid on the above account; and if it shall appear that

Canada, what charges he had been at for transporting the English prisoners belonging to their government.

Soon after this, the court house, in Boston, was burnt, and therein all the papers relating to the fitting out the French flag of truce, which made it necessary that those accounts should be had from Canada in order to state the particular part each of the English governments ought to bear to the charge of transporting their prisoners; and I find the said accounts were sent here a little before Governor Shirley's departure, and an account has been stated between the said Governor Shirley and the Governor of Canada, and sent to Quebec by a person gone there for the redemption of captives; and the Governor of Canada has been assured that all possible care should be taken for recovering from each government their proportion of the charge.

I shall now send Your Honor a copy of the account, by which you will perceive the number of persons belonging to your government, is six, and the proportion of the charge £174 8s. 5d., which I must pray Your Honor would cause to be paid into my hands as soon as may be, and the same shall be remitted to the Governor of Canada; and I doubt not your more ready compliance, when you consider, as appears by the account, that this Province will be obliged to pay in proportion beyond any other government; as the greatest part of the Europeans and other uncertain persons, both in this vessel and another sent to Louisbourg, will fall upon them.

I am, sir, Your Honor's most obedient and most humble servant,

S. PHIPS.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq.

*Governor Greene to Governor Phips.*

Warwick, December 1st, 1749.

Sir:—Yours, of the 9th of November last, I lately received, by which you inform me that His Excellency, Governor Shirley, had settled an agreement with the Governor of Canada, (so far as related to the Province of the Massachusetts,) that the charge of transporting English prisoners, should be defrayed by the English governments; and the charge of transporting French prisoners, by their government; and that upon His Excellency's writing circular letters to the governors of the neighboring colonies, the most of them had signified their approbation of that method.

I also find enclosed, an account of six English prisoners, belonging to the colony of Rhode Island, who arrived at Boston, from Quebec, in the ship *La Vierge de Grace*; and that this government's proportionable part of the expense for keeping and transporting prisoners from Canada to Boston, in said ship, was £174 8s. 5d.,

the colony have not made satisfaction in the affair, then Mr. Cranston is hereby empowered to draw so much money out of the general treasury, as will be sufficient to pay for the transportation of five prisoners only; Jacob Judah, the other, not belonging to this colony; and when Mr. Cranston shall have received said money, he is to deliver it to His Honor, the Governor, who is hereby requested to transmit the same to the aforesaid Spencer Phips, Esq.

Whereas, the town of North Kingstown, at a meeting had on the 26th day of August, 1746, appointed Messrs. Francis Willett, Rouse Helme, Jr., and James Wightman, a committee, to consider some proposals made by Benjamin Congdon, of said North Kingstown, for exchanging a highway on the great plain, &c., and the gentlemen having assumed that province, made report to the town meeting, held in North Kingstown, the 29th day of August, 1749, to wit:

“That having viewed the highway that leads from Mr. Jeremiah Gardner’s, and so across the hills to the highway, leading to Robert Eldred’s, they found the highway across the hills (as it was shown them by Mr. Congdon), to be in some places so very steep, that it was not passable, especially with carts; and were of opinion, that the best method of exchanging said way, would be, from the highway that leads to Mr. Job Tripp’s, and to go by Mr. Congdon’s house, on the plain, to the highway that leads to Mr. Robert Eldred’s, according to a draught made by Mr. Benoni Hall, surveyor, which Mr. Congdon would sub-

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which Your Excellency requests I will cause to be paid into your hands as soon as may be: and say that the same shall be remitted to the Governor of Canada.

Sir, as to this government’s signifying their approbation to any such agreement, made by Governor Shirley and the Governor of Canada, I am at present, unacquainted with it; and therefore can by no means give any encouragement for the payment thereof; nor is it in my power to raise the money (was it never so justly due), without the assistance of the General Assembly, which is adjourned to the last Tuesday in February next; at which time, I will communicate the whole affair to the General Assembly; and as soon as may be, afterward, shall inform Your Excellency of their resolve thereon.

I am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

To His Excellency, S. Phips, Esq. -

W. GREENE.



mit to, provided he might have the liberty of hanging gates, and making bars at his corner house, and at the plain where the highway turns to the southward."

Which report was accepted by the said town, at their last mentioned meeting; and afterwards, at another meeting of the said town, on the 5th day of December last, it was voted, that the report of the aforesaid Francis Willett, Rouse Helme and James Wightman, should be laid before the General Assembly, for a further sanction, and a more sure establishment; which was accordingly done this session, by the deputies of the said town of North Kingstown.

And now this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the exchange of the highway, as laid down in the report of the aforesaid committee, be, and the same is hereby confirmed.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 1st day of May, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Simon Pease,

Mr. William Richmond,

Mr. William Burton,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. William Ellery, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Nathaniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Joseph Whipple, Jr.,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Capt. Job Bennett.

*Providence.*

Mr. Elisha Brown,  
Capt. Christopher Harris,  
Mr. John Andrew.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
Mr. John Allen,  
Mr. Thomas Brownell,  
Mr. Benjamin Hickee.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,  
Mr. Joseph Lippitt,  
Mr. William Holden,  
Mr. John Watson.

*Westerly.*

Col. Joseph Pendleton,  
Capt. Caleb Church.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. Beriah Brown.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. Henry Gardner,  
Mr. Rowland Robinson.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
Capt. Thomas Spencer.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Edward Carr,  
Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Lapham,  
Mr. Thomas Arnold.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. Gideon Hammond.

*Glocester.*

Maj. Richard Smith,  
Mr. Benjamin Smith.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. James Congdon,  
Capt. Nathaniel Lewis.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>West Greenwich.</i>	<i>Tiverton.</i>
Mr. Samuel Hopkins,	Capt. John Manchester,
Mr. William Comstock.	Mr. Abraham Barker.
<i>Coventry.</i>	<i>Little Compton.</i>
Mr. Elisha Johnson,	Capt. John Hunt,
Mr. Samuel Cooper.	Mr. Joseph Peckham.
<i>Exeter.</i>	<i>Warren.</i>
Capt. William Tripp.	Mr. Peter Bicknel,
<i>Middletown.</i>	Capt. Benjamin Barton.
Mr. Jonathan Easton,	<i>Cumberland.</i>
Capt. William Turner.	Mr. Job Bartlett,
<i>Bristol.</i>	Mr. John Dexter.
Mr. Jonathan Peck,	<i>Richmond.</i>
Major Thomas Greene.	Capt. James Adams.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Capt. George Wanton,	Mr. Robert Lawton,
Mr. Jonathan Nichols,	Mr. James Arnold,
Mr. John Potter,	Mr. William Richmond,
Mr. Jabez Bowen,	Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,
Mr. Benjamin Tucker,	Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

**An Act for appointing commissioners, &c., to run and settle the northern boundary line of this colony, according to charter.**

Whereas, the northern boundary line of this colony hath never yet been settled according to the royal charter; and whereas, divers persons have made application to this Assembly, and have set forth their just right to be under the jurisdiction of this government, as dwelling within the bounds thereof; and that the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, have, and do unjustly exercise jurisdiction over them; in order, therefore, to have the said line rightly run and settled, and to prevent any further disputes thereupon, between the said Province and this colony;—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that as soon as may be, the northern boundary line of this colony shall be run and settled according to the royal charter granted by King Charles, the Second, in the year of our Lord 1663.

Be it also enacted, that, to the end the same may be perfected and completed, Jonathan Randall, Richard Steere and Thomas Lapham, Esqs., and Capt. Joseph Harrison and Mr. Matthew Robinson, are hereby appointed commissioners; and they, or the major part of them, are fully authorized and empowered to run and settle said line, according to the royal charter, aforesaid, as near as may be.

And that they, the said commissioners, be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor; and that the said commissioners, or the major part of them, are fully authorized and empowered to appoint times and places, when and where to meet any commissioners that are, or shall be appointed on the part of said Province.

And the said Jonathan Randall, Richard Steere, Thomas Lapham, Joseph Harrison and Matthew Robinson, or the major part of them, are hereby fully authorized and empowered to appoint a surveyor or surveyors, and chainmen; and in general, to act and do all and every other matter and thing whatever, for or concerning the aforesaid settlement of said line.

And that in case no commissioners on the part of said Province, shall and do on the first Tuesday in October next, or at any other time as shall be agreed on, meet the said commissioners for this colony, and agree to run and settle said line, as aforesaid; then and in that case, the said commissioners on the part of this colony, or the major part of them, shall, and are hereby required to proceed to the running and settling said line *ex parte*.

Be it also enacted, that the secretary of this colony send a copy of this act to the secretary of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, withal desiring that the said Province would suspend all assessments upon the people and inhabitants included within this colony, by the line already run by Jonathan Randall, Thomas Lapham, and Richard Steere, Esqs., as by their return made in January, 1749, as was directed from home to the said Province, relating to the eastern boundary of this colony.

Be it also enacted, that a plat of the land contained within said line, so to be run, as aforesaid, be drawn up; and that the said commissioners on the part of this colony, or the major part of them, do make report to the General Assembly, of their doings in the premises, and present said plat at the same time; any laws, orders, customs, agreement or agreements, to the contrary hereof in any wise, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby desired to write as soon as may be, unto the government of Connecticut, and request their assistance in settling the northern boundary line of this colony; and send with his letter a copy of the act passed by this Assembly, at this present session, for appointing commissioners to run and settle said boundary line.

Whereas, William Richmond and Nathaniel Searl, Esqs., and Mr. Samuel Tompkins, were, pursuant to a petition preferred by John Wilbore, and granted at a session of the General Assembly, held at Newport, by adjournment, on the third Monday of August, A. D. 1749, appointed a committee to view a highway laid out in Tiverton, and report thereon, having

said trust, on a copy of said petition reported as follows, to wit :

“ We, the subscribers, pursuant to the above and before-written, have viewed the premises contained therein, and report that the said highway mentioned in the prayer of this petition, be re-laid.

NATHANIEL SEARL,  
SAMUEL TOMPKINS,  
WILLIAM RICHMOND.”

On consideration whereof, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the above report be, and the same is hereby accepted ; and that the said John Wilbore have the liberty of applying to the town council of Tiverton ; and that he enjoy all the privileges and advantages respecting the abovementioned highway, as by law he would have been entitled to, if he had made application to the next town council after said highway was laid out.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday in June, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

An Act incorporating the towns of East Greenwich, Warwick, West Greenwich and Coventry, in this colony, now in the county of Providence, into a county, by the name of the county of Kent.

Whereas, the number of inhabitants in the said county of Providence, is much increased, and the bounds thereof, are so

extensive, that the inhabitants in the distant parts thereof, are put to great charge and trouble in prosecuting their affairs at the town of Providence, where the said courts in said county are established to do the business thereof;—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that for the future the towns of East Greenwich, Warwick, West Greenwich and Coventry, at present in the county of Providence, shall be divided off from said county of Providence, and shall be a distinct and separate county, by the name of the county of Kent; and that East Greenwich shall be the county town.

Be it also enacted, that within the said county, there shall be held and kept at the said town of East Greenwich, in and for said county, one session of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, on the third Tuesday of October, once in every year.

Be it also enacted, that for the future, there shall be held and kept in said county of Kent, one inferior court of common pleas, and one court of the general sessions of the peace; which said court of common pleas, and court of general sessions of the peace, shall have two sessions at the said town of East Greenwich, in and for said county of Kent, yearly, and every year; one on the second Tuesday of July, and the other on the second Tuesday of January.

And that there shall be five judges or justices of said court of common pleas, and court of general sessions of the peace, chosen every year, to wit: one chief judge, and four other judges, by the General Assembly of this colony, in the same manner and at the same time, that the other judges of the inferior court of common pleas are chosen in and for the other counties in this colony; and that the said judges of said inferior court of common pleas, and court of general sessions of the peace, shall be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor of this colony, in like manner as the judges of said courts in the other counties in this colony are commissioned.

And that the justices of the peace in said county, shall and are hereby authorized and empowered to attend upon and

compose the said court of general sessions of the peace, in said county of Kent, in like manner as the justices of the peace in the other counties in this colony do.

And that the said court of common pleas, and court of general sessions of the peace, in said county of Kent, are hereby invested and clothed with the like powers and authorities in all respects, as the said courts are in other counties in this colony, by the acts of this colony heretofore made, without an exception or limitation.

Be it also enacted, that there shall be one clerk of said court of common pleas, and court of general sessions of the peace; and one sheriff of said county, who shall be chosen as the clerks and sheriffs of the other counties in this colony are; who are hereby empowered to act and do in all respects, in said county of Kent, as the clerks and sheriffs of the other counties in this colony do.

Be it also enacted, that there shall be one seal, with the device of a dove on it, for said courts of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, in and for said county of Kent, to be used upon all proper occasions, as is by law required, or made proper or necessary; and that the clerks of said courts for the time being, shall have the custody thereof.

Be it also enacted, that the said courts, as to the number of members to make a quorum, in their respective sessions, and in relation to all other matters within the power and jurisdiction of said courts, shall be subject to all the laws of this colony, now in force, and the laws of England, in every respect, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as the other inferior courts of common pleas, and courts of general sessions of the peace, are in the other counties in this colony; any law, custom, or usage, to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Provided, that a court house of the dimensions, or near the dimensions of the court house in Providence, be built in the town of E. Greenwich, by a free contribution of the inhabitants of the said county of Kent; and that if the same be not so far finished as to be fit to hold courts in, by the last day of October next, then the



present act is to determine, be null, void and of none effect; but if said house be so far finished, as abovesaid, that the judges and other officers of said court be chosen at the next October session of this Assembly, to hold a court in January next.

Whereas, Col. Joseph Pendleton, of Westerly, by petition, represented unto this Assembly, that sometime in the month of August last, he had a brigantine, laden with rum, molasses, &c., which was a new vessel, and sailed from Anquilla, bound home, the property whereof was entirely his own, and of the value of £18,000 or £20,000; that that the said brigantine and cargo were not insured, and have not been heard of since; and so are supposed to be lost; by which heavy stroke of Providence, he is rendered unable to pay his just debts at present, without selling some part of his real estate; and whereas, the petitioner owns a farm in said Westerly, adjoining to Pawcatuck river, near the mouth thereof; part whereof, it is thought might not only be convenient, but also tend to a public advantage, if settled with a town; it being bounded westerly, on the navigable part of said river, where there are plenty of oysters and other fish to be taken at all times in the year; and plenty of stone and brick, with good timber, suitable for building vessels and houses, near to be had, very plenty; with saw mills on said river, for the sawing plank, &c., with many other valuable conveniences; whereupon, he prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, of about £26,000; in which lottery, he, the petitioner, will put to sale one hundred and twenty-four lots of land (with two dwelling-houses thereon); part of the aforesaid farm, adjoining to the aforesaid river, none less than a quarter of an acre, and some half acres, at a certain value put on them by two judicious and disinterested men, namely: Capt. Isaac Sheffield and Capt. Elias Thompson; the sale of which lots, will enable the petitioner to pay his just debts, &c.

[The General Assembly accordingly passed a resolution, authorizing Mr. Pendleton to dispose of his estate by lottery, the scheme for which, appears at length on the records.]

It is voted and resolved, that the choice of the several committees, in the several towns, for the management of the colony's money, let or to be let on loan, be, and the same is hereby referred unto the next session of this Assembly; and that the present officers be continued until that time, with full power of doing, acting and transacting all business appertaining to their offices, in the meanwhile.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 3d Monday of August, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

This Assembly having considered the subject matter of the petition of divers persons, inhabitants on the land claimed by this colony, from the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and their circumstances,—

Do order, that the secretary of this colony write a letter to the secretary of the said Province, to be laid before their General Court, representing that this Assembly has had certain information that a considerable number of those persons inhabiting on the said disputed lands, are apprehended and prosecuted at the Worcester court of sessions, as rioters, occasioned by some indiscreet proceedings of some officers in the colony; which, as they were done in the recess of this Assembly, so they were begun and carried on without the knowledge and privity of this Court; and that all these things have happened since the last letters to said Province; they therefore desire, that as the General Court of said Province, has always, in all their letters to this colony since this dispute has subsisted, shown a

disposition to have the said northern boundary line between us, run and settled in the most amicable way possible ; so, on our part, that it is our hearty desire that every thing should be done to cultivate that good harmony and friendship that ought to subsist among neighbors ; and that those poor people who are settled on the said disputed land, may not be made a sacrifice to the resentments of that Province, for being misled by any inconsiderate officers of this colony, since this Assembly have reason to believe that the persons so prosecuted, had no riotous intent to disturb the peace of the government ;—

Therefore, this Assembly desires that the General Court of said Province would give orders to the judges of said court at Worcester, to suspend any further prosecution against said men, till the said matter of the said line shall be issued ; or that the secretary write something to the like purpose ; and to desire them also to suspend the levying the taxes from said people.

Also, His Honor the Governor, is desired to write, by the first ship, to the agent for this colony, in London, directing him to represent to His Majesty, the circumstances of said people, and the rigorous demands that are made on them for taxes, &c., in order to obtain from His Majesty in council, an order to said Province to suspend the levying any more taxes, or using any violent means with said people, till the said northern line shall be finally settled and established.

It is voted and resolved, that the colony's ferries on the west side of Jamestown, be sold to the best advantage of the government ; and that Daniel Coggeshall, Thomas Cranston and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee, with full power to sell and dispose of said ferries by public vendue, or otherwise, as they shall think proper ; advertising the same fourteen days before the sale ; and when they have sold them, the said committee, in behalf of the colony, make, seal and execute a good and sufficient deed or deeds of said ferries to the buyer or buyers thereof ; and that the money arising thereby, be lodged in the general treasury ; and that out of the same, the general

treasurer pay off all such money as was by him hired for building the light house.

An Act to prevent the falling through of the near approaching superior court of judicature, &c., in the county of Newport.

Whereas, the town meetings of the several towns in this colony, for choosing deputies to sit in the General Assembly, on the last Wednesday of October next, are held on the same day which the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, are to be held at Newport, within and for the county of Newport, whereby the judges of said court will be deprived of the benefit of attending said town meetings, unless they suffer said court to be discontinued :

For remedy whereof, be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that if it should happen that none of the judges of said court shall appear at Newport, on the day appointed by law for holding said court, that then, and in such case, said court shall not be discontinued : provided, any one or more of the judges appear the next day, and proceed to do business, or adjourn said court according to the law now in force ; and that all business done in said court, if so held, shall be as valid and effectual, as if the same had been held or adjourned on the day appointed by law.

And it is also voted and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, shall notify all persons concerned, by setting up a copy of this act at the court house door, on the usual day of holding said court.

Whereas, Moses Lopez, of Newport, in the county of Newport, merchant, represented unto this Assembly, that he hath for several years past, translated letters and papers from the Spanish into English, for the use of the government, which he has declined being paid for, inasmuch as it was for said use ; that he is ready and willing at all times to do the like, and desires no other gratuity than to be exempted from all other personal duties in the colony, during his residence therein ; and prayed that an act might be passed accordingly.

On consideration whereof, this Assembly do vote and enact, and it is voted and enacted, that the said Moses Lopez be, and he is hereby exempted from all personal duties in this colony, excepting the above mentioned, until the General Assembly shall order otherwise.

Whereas, Col. Joseph Pendleton and Mr. Gideon Hammond, both members of the lower house, have informed this Assembly, that the said house has been grossly abused by Samuel Pemberton, and another person;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said persons be brought before this Assembly (by a warrant from the secretary), to answer for their behaviour, and suffer what shall be enjoined by this Assembly.

Whereas, complaint hath been made unto the lower house, that Samuel Pemberton hath grossly abused this Assembly, by saying, "That the General Assembly are a parcel of damned rascals and scoundrels, and as bad as thieves and robbers, and had taken £5,000 out of his pocket," and the said Samuel Pemberton being brought before this Assembly, acknowledged that he had so said; but that he intended only those that voted for making the money;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Samuel Pemberton be committed to His Majesty's jail, in Newport, until he give a bond with sufficient surety, in the sum of £5,000, for his appearance before the Assembly, at their next session to be held the last Monday in September next.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that the secretary be, and he is hereby directed to write to the secretary of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, informing him that the committee appointed by this government to run the northern boundary line of this colony, will meet for that purpose, at the house of Benjamin Tower, in Cumberland, on the 18th day of December next; and request of the Province to appoint a committee meet ours at the time and place above mentioned.

Whereas, the committee appointed by the General Assembly, at their session in Newport, the third Monday of August last, to sell the colony's ferries on the west side of Jamestown, have performed that service, and made the following report, to wit :

*Report of the committee on the sale of the colony's ferries.*

“ We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee by the General Assembly, to sell the government's ferries on the west side of Jamestown, do report :

That agreeably to act of Assembly, we set up advertisements fourteen days before sale, and at the time appointed, which was the 19th of this instant, we set up conditions of sale at the south ferry house, when Mr. Abel Franklin and Mr. Stephen Wilcox bought said ferries, according to conditions of sale; and said Franklin paid £100 cash, in part of the purchase money; for which we gave them our receipts in behalf of the government, and then appointed the 25th of this instant, to be

the time to complete said contract ; and upon the 25th of this instant October, we met at the aforesaid ferry ; all parties being present, we ordered the surveyor to run out said land according to conditions of sale, which was then done ; and two-thirds of said land laid out to the south ferry, and the other third to the north ferry ; and then filled up the deeds of sale, and offered them to the parties ; when Mr. Stephen Wilcox complied with conditions of sale, and signed the bonds, and received his deed of sale, executed by us in behalf of the government ; but Mr. Abel Franklin refused to comply with conditions of sale, according to agreement. All which is humbly submitted, by

DANIEL COGGESHALL,  
THOMAS CRANSTON,  
IMMANUEL NORTHUP,

Committee."

And this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted.

The committee appointed by an act of Assembly, to buy the two ferries, &c., on the west side of Jamestown, for the colony, exhibited their accounts, which was received.

An Act in addition to an act of the General Assembly, made and passed on the 17th day of February, A. D. 1746, entitled " An act for regulating appeals to His Majesty in council, in Great Britain," and for repealing the former act made for that purpose.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is hereby enacted, that from and after the publication of this act, no defendant in any suit of law in this colony, the foundation whereof, being a bond conditioned for the payment of money only, shall have leave to appeal from the judgment of such court, where such action shall be tried, to His Majesty in council ; but that the last judgment of the superior court of judicature, in this colony,

as trials now stand, regulated by the laws of this colony, shall in all such cases be final.

And furthermore, that in all appeals to His Majesty in council, from this colony, if the appellant doth not obtain a reversal of the judgment appealed from, or fails in prosecuting such appeal, the appellee, in such cause, may, by action of the case, recover all just and reasonable costs and damages; any law, custom, or usage to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general, Daniel Jenckes, Esq. and Capt. Elisha Brown, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to make the draught of a letter to be sent to our agent in Great Britain, instructing him with respect to a bill now pending in Parliament, about paper bills of credit, &c., to defend us against a complaint lately sent home against the government, by sundry merchants and others, in this colony; and to desire the agent to procure and send to this government, a copy of the said complaint, with the signers' names; but that the said draught, when made, be not sent until it be laid before this Assembly.

It is also voted and resolved, that Daniel Jenckes and Nathaniel Lewis, Esqs., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to inquire into the number of iron works, &c., in this colony, as directed from home, and make report to His Honor, the Governor, in order that he may give proper answers to the letters he has received on that head, as soon as may be.

God save the King.

*Petition to the King, relative to bills of credit.*

Newport, on Rhode Island, 4th September, 1750.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:—We, Your Majesty's very dutiful and most loyal subjects, inhabitants of your colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, humbly crave leave to represent to Your Majesty,—

That the currency, or instrument of commerce of a country, being the standard and measure by which the worth of all things bought and sold, are estimated and determined, it ought to be fixed invariably, otherwise property can neither be ascertained nor secured by any plan or method whatsoever.



That the currency of this government is so far from being fixed, that it hath sunk in its value above one-half, within seven years last past, whereby all the creditors of the colony, have been greatly defrauded; and all whose effects or estates have consisted of money, or bills of public credit, so called, amongst whom are numbers of widows and orphans, have been grievously injured, oppressed and almost ruined.

That this colony hath now outstanding the sum of £525,385, in bills of public credit, emitted at several times, partly upon loan, and partly to supply the colony treasury; that the sum upon loan is £390,000, the value of which, at the time of issuing, was £78,111 sterling; and the present sterling value is but £35,445.

That the bills emitted to supply the treasury by acts of Assembly, ought to be sunk or drawn in by a tax; but the government have hitherto delayed the execution of these acts, no tax having been yet levied for that purpose.

That several petitions for a new bank, or another emission of paper bills of public credit, have been preferred to the present General Assembly of this colony, and that the house of deputies, notwithstanding all remonstrances to the contrary, have, at their session of August last, passed a vote for issuing £50,000 in bills of a new tenor; and have appointed a committee of four of their members, to prepare and bring forward a bill for such effect, and then adjourned until the last Monday of this instant September.

That the landholders of this colony, having generally mortgaged their farms, or plantations, as a security for the bills of credit they have taken upon loan, have found it their interest to multiply such bills, that they may depreciate and lessen in value, and which they have recourse to, as a legal expedient of wiping away their debts without labor; whereby, the laudable spirit of industry is greatly extinguished, and Your Majesty's trading subjects greatly discouraged for want of produce and remittances.

Sensible of the misfortune and hardships we labor under, we do therefore most humbly pray Your Majesty that the legislature or authority of this government, may be prevented and effectually restrained from making or emitting any more bills of public credit upon loan, without Your Majesty's royal permission, and be commanded to stop and recall this intended emission of August last, from circulating or being offered or taken in payment of debt, or from passing any acts whereby any extant bills of public credit may be either debased in value or postponed in their period of being drawn in; and that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to interpose in this matter, in such manner as in your royal wisdom shall seem meet to relieve us from the injury and oppression of a flood of fluctuating sinking paper bills of public credit. And your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

John Freebody,	Andrew Hunter,	Samuel Pemberton,
Samuel Freebody,	John Thurston,	David Moore,
John Freebody, Jr.,	Daniel Ayrault,	William Rogers,
Daniel Ayrault,	Samuel Rhodes,	Henry Collins,
Stephen Ayrault,	Joseph Harrison,	James Gould,
Walter Cranston,	Peter Harrison,	John Fryers,
Francis Honeyman,	John Beard,	John Belittia,
Walter Rodman,	John Tweedy,	Jacob Dehane,
Philip Wilkinson,	Edward Cole,	Samuel Dyno,
Abraham Redwood,	William Stevens,	Samuel Eng,
Samuel Vernon,	Thomas Rodman, Jr.,	Benjamin Willson,

Gideon Sisson,  
 Jeremiah Finney,  
 Henry Bull,  
 Joshua Amy,  
 John Thurston,  
 John Dennis,  
 Jahleel Brenton,  
 John Brown,  
 Simon Pease,  
 William Richards,  
 Pat. Grant,  
 Andrew Heatly,  
 Lodowick Widicke,

Robert Jenkins, Jr.,  
 John Cook,  
 Jonas L. Redwood,  
 William Coddington,  
 Jeremiah Brown,  
 Jonathan Thurston,  
 Joseph Sanford,  
 Solo. Townsend,  
 Pardon Tillinghast,  
 John Whitehorn,  
 Thomas Freebody,  
 Joseph Bruce,  
 Samuel Holmes,

John Cole,  
 John Paine,  
 George Gibbs,  
 Jonathan Tillinghast,  
 Benoni Gardner,  
 Ebenezer Richardson,  
 Ebenezer Flagg,  
 Resolved Waterman,  
 John Stevens,  
 Joseph Willson, Jr.,  
 Benjamin Smith,  
 Daniel Coggeshall,  
 Jonas Sisson.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Monday of December, 1750.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Before this Assembly was read an act of Parliament, entitled "An act to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from His Majesty's colonies in America; and to prevent the erecting of any mill, or other engine, for slitting or rolling of iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making steel, in any of the said colonies;" and also the letter and instructions from the lords commissioners for trade and plantations.\*

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\* *The Duke of Bedford to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 14th April, 1750.

Sir:—The King having given his royal assent, the last session of Parliament, to an act, entitled "An act to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from His Majesty's colonies in America, and to prevent the erection of any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron or any plating forge, to work with a tilt hammer,

And the same being taken into consideration, this Assembly is well assured, that there is not in this colony, any such mill or engine for slitting or rolling of iron, or any plating forge to

or any furnace for making steel, in any of the said colonies;" which act is to take place the 24th June next; and His Majesty's governors in North America, having particular instructions given them therein, I have the King's commands to transmit it to you, to the end that you may have the same duly published and observed throughout your government.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

BEDFORD.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Thomas Hill to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, May the 29th, 1750.

Gentlemen:—Three acts having been passed in the last session of Parliament, wherein the British plantations are concerned, viz.:

An act for extending and improving the trade to Africa;

An act for encouraging the growth and culture of raw silk in His Majesty's colonies or plantations in America;

An act to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from His Majesty's colonies, in America; and to prevent the erection of any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron; or any plating forge, to work with a tilt hammer; or any furnace, for making steel in any of the said colonies;

I am directed by my lords commissioners for trade and plantations, to send you the enclosed printed copies of them, for your information and government in the several matters therein contained.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS HILL.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

P. S. As to the last mentioned act, to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron, I am further directed to recommend to you a punctual compliance therewith; and in particular, that you do immediately transmit to their lordships, certificates under your hand and seal of office, containing an account of every mill or engine for slitting and rolling of iron; and every plating forge to work with a tilt hammer; and every furnace for making steel, at the time of the commencement of this act, erected in your government; expressing also, in the said certificate such of them as are used; and the name of the proprietor or proprietors of each such mill, engine, forge and furnace; and the place where each such mill, engine, forge and furnace is erected; and the number of engines, forges and furnaces in your government.

And you are to take especial care, that if after the time limited by the said act any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making steel, shall be erected or continued within your government, you do cause the same to be abated within the time and in the manner prescribed by the said act.

T. H.

work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making steel, as mentioned and expressed in said act.

And therefore it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to inform the Right Honorable and Honorable, the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, of the same, as soon as conveniently may be.

Whereas, the committee, that was appointed to form the draught of a letter to be sent from this government, to Mr. Agent Partridge, have performed that service, and presented this Assembly with one;—

Which being duly considered, this Assembly do approve thereof; and thereupon it is voted and resolved, that a fair copy of the same be drawn, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to the agent by the first good opportunity.

*Governor Greene to Richard Partridge, Agent for Rhode Island, in London.*

Newport, December 4, 1750.

Sir:—The General Assembly of this colony, having been informed that some small number of the inhabitants have lately sent a petition to the King; but as the petitioners sent it away, without ever communicating the contents of it to any in authority here, it is not certainly known what they pray for, or what their design in it is; however, the common report here is, that they ask that some alteration may be made in the form of the government of this colony, by procuring a negative to be put on the acts of government, made by the General Assembly.

And as the General Assembly are apprehensive, that if what they ask for, or any thing like it be obtained, it will utterly overthrow the valuable liberties and privileges this colony have hitherto enjoyed, and which they think they have still a right by their charter, to continue in the possession of, not knowing of any proceedings that have been had in this colony, which could occasion so unnatural a prayer from some of their own brethren, or so far provoke a gracious King, as to grant the petition of the betrayers of their country's liberties.

By the directions of the General Assembly, I therefore write this, to desire you to make diligent inquiry after the aforesaid petition, and to use all means in your power, to prevent (if possible) its ever being laid before the King. But if that cannot be done, then to oppose any thing being done, in consequence of it, to the prejudice of the colony.

And I am further to desire you, to procure a copy of the petition, with the petitioners' names, and transmit to the Governor of this colony, by the first opportunity; and also to signify, if there be any thing necessary for the General Assembly to do further in this affair.

If there should be another bill in Parliament this session, against our paper currency, you are also desired to make all proper defence against any such bill or bills that may in any measure have a tendency to infringe on our charter privileges.

As your labors hitherto, in the affairs of this colony, have been crowned with success, the General Assembly hope your care and prudence will bring this also to a happy issue.

I salute you in the name of the council, and house of representatives,

And am, with much respect, sir,

Your humble servant,

To Richard Partridge, Esq.

WILLIAM GREENE.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in Providence, the last Wednesday of October last, made and passed an act, entitled "An act in addition to an act of the General Assembly, made and passed on the 17th day of February, A. D. 1746, entitled 'An act for regulating appeals to His Majesty in council, in Great Britain, and for repealing the former act made for that purpose;'" part of which act last made, is expressed in terms so general, that it may be construed to look back, and take effect in actions brought before said act was passed; this Assembly, therefore, having taken the matter into consideration,—

Do vote, resolve and declare, and it is voted, resolved and declared, that it was not their intent, meaning or design, when they voted and passed the said act last made, that the same should retrospect, nor shall it retrospect, or take effect in any action, the original writ whereof bears date before the said act last passed was voted and passed; any thing therein contained to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Whereas, Thomas Relph, Jr., of Scituate, in the county of Providence, in behalf of himself and company, represented unto this Assembly, that they went out to hunt wolves; and on the 16th day of November last, he, the said Relph, shot at a blackish colored wolf, in Scituate, aforesaid, but did not follow him; afterwards, such a wolf was found dead, which they apprehend to be the same that said Relph shot at; but not having the proof by law required, to entitle them to the bounty, he prayed to have the same allowance out of the general treasury, as he should have, were the wolf killed in sight; and this Assembly

having taken the subject matter of the said petition into consideration, and made due inquiry into the truth thereof,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said petition is hereby granted.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Deputy Governor, Benjamin Tucker, James Honeyman, and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., Messrs. Benjamin Peckham, Jr. and Joseph Lippitt, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee, to take the affair of the paper currency into consideration, and present a bill or bills to this Assembly, at their next session.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1750, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in the year 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act providing that in case of fire breaking out in the town of Newport, and for the more speedy extinguishing thereof, and for preserving goods endangered thereby. (May.)

An Act to prevent delays in the several courts of trials in this colony. (June.)

An Act relating to the taking of bail in civil actions. (June.)

An Act explaining, altering and amending "An act for establishing and regulating of fees." (June.)

An Act for the assessing of persons who are not the proper inhabitants of any town in this colony, that shall sell or dispose of any goods or merchandize within the same. (June.)

An Act to prevent the falling through of the fear approaching superior court of judicature, &c., in the county of Newport. (August.)

An Act for raising the prices of ferrage at several ferries in this colony. (October.)

An Act ascertaining the number of jurors to be sent by the towns in the county of Kent, to the several courts in that county. (October.)

An Act for setting up a lottery, to raise a sum of money, in order to build a bridge over Pawtucket river, between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland. (December.)

An Act establishing and appointing the quota of jurors to be sent by the several towns in the county of Providence, to the future courts within the same. (December.)

An Act to naturalize Joseph Antunes, merchant, of Newport, late a subject of the King of Portugal. (December.)

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the third Monday of March, 1750-51.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

[An act was passed at this session, for promoting the raising of flax and wool, and for the manufacturing of the same into cloth; also for the encouragement of the whale and cod fishery; for which purpose, the same act authorized an emission of £25,000 in bills of public credit. The preamble to the act is as follows:

“Whereas, it is conceived, that giving a proper encouragement for the raising of flax and wool, and manufacturing the same into cloth, will greatly conduce to promote frugality and industry; and as a consequence whereof, it may justly be expected, that the vacant lands within this colony, now unimproved and lying waste (occasioned in some measure by the late long and tedious war), may be greatly improved to the advantage and interest of His Majesty's subjects, the inhabitants of this colony; and they under such better circumstances, be therefore enabled, in case of another war, not only to defend and protect themselves, &c., but also greatly to distress and annoy His Majesty's enemies in these parts.

And whereas, the carrying on the whale and cod fishery within this colony, will not only much promote and increase the trade and commerce thereof; but amongst other things, may be very beneficial to merchants and others, trading to Great Britain, by furnishing them with proper remittances for the payment of such goods and merchandise as the inhabitants of this colony, may from time to time, stand in need of from thence; it is therefore conceived, that a proper premium or bounty may be necessary, as an encouragement for the purpose aforesaid.

And whereas, the colony hath been at great and expensive costs and charge in putting themselves in a position of defence in the late war, and that the treasury is thereby near exhausted, and no fund therein sufficient or adequate to answer such good, useful and beneficial ends and purposes as are designed and intended by this act, it is apprehended therefore, that there is a necessity of making and emitting the sum of £25,000 in bills of public credit, of the tenor and form hereafter expressed.

And whereas, it hath been found by said experience, that one great and principal cause of the depreciation of the bills of public credit already emitted, hath been owing to the indirect and illegal practices of sundry persons giving and offering from time to time for gold, and silver, and bills of exchange, for sterling money, greater and larger sums and proportions of the bills of public credit of this colony, than was provided for, stated and allowed for such silver and gold at the respective times the several emissions were made; and which not only sunk in value such bills of public

credit, to the injury and oppression of many poor widows, orphans, and others, but thereby the gold and silver hath been drawn and carried out of this colony, to the great discouragement and prejudice of trade and commerce ; and which practices are still carrying on ; it is therefore conceived of the highest importance, that such evil practices for the future be restrained."

The following was the form of these bills of credit :

" By a law of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., made and passed the third Monday of March, A. D. 1750, this bill of \_\_\_\_\_ due to the possessor thereof, from the colony, shall pass current, and be equivalent to the respective proportions of silver and gold, as are regulated and stated in said act, and shall be accordingly accepted by the treasurer of said colony, and the receiver thereof in all payments. Providence, March the 18th, 1750.

Death to counterfeit this bill."

This act provided that these bills of credit should be equivalent to silver at the rate of 6s. 9d. per ounce of sterling alloy ; or gold coin at £5 1s. 6d. per ounce ; every 6s. 9d. of which bills, shall be equal to 54s. of the old tenor. They were then to be put into the hands of trustees of the several towns, and by them let out upon loan, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, for the space of five years, to be secured by mortgages on land double the value of the money loaned.

The bounty on cloth, manufactured of wool or flax, of a certain texture and length, was one-third its appraised value; that on every pound of cured and dressed flax, one penny a pound. Besides these, the manufacturers were to be exempt from taxation and all public duties. The bounty allowed on every barrel of whale oil, was four shillings ; on every pound of whale-bone, one shilling, and on every quintal of codfish, 2s. 6d.

At the June session, following, another act was passed, " explaining, amending and repealing " certain portions of this act. The preamble declared that the bounty provided for manufactured goods of wool, " may draw the displeasure of Great Britain upon us, as it will interfere with their most favorite manufactory, while that on flax, and the fisheries, have been already tried and not been found beneficial." These bounties, were therefore repealed.

The portion of the act which regulated the value of the bills of credit, was also amended, so that it should stand that sixty-four shillings of the old tenor bills, and sixteen shillings of bills of the new tenor, should be equal to the ounce of silver. This money was then to be loaned at the rate of five per cent. (instead of six as before provided), for the term of ten years. A change was also made in the form of the bills. The following protest was then made to the amendments in the new law :

" We, the subscribers, do dissent from the alterations in this bill proposed, and do protest against them, for the following reasons :

1. Because we are of opinion the committee have greatly exceeded their power, and made alterations which were never voted, or even so much as demanded in this house.

2. Because we are of opinion the alterations so made, are material and essential, relating to the very form and denomination of the bills, and so entirely different from the act passed in March last, that the bills which are to be emitted,



cannot with any truth, be said to be emitted by an act made and passed at that time.

3. Because the other alterations in this bill proposed, have a natural tendency to depreciate, not only the bills that are to be emitted, but also all the bills of this colony that are now outstanding, and must, in our opinion, unavoidably produce that effect.

4. Because by these alterations, 6s. 9d. are made to be equal to 16s., and must be so received in all payments made in this colony, with the bills now proposed to be emitted, if said alterations are passed as a law of this government.

PETER BOURS,  
EDWARD SCOTT.\*]

The committee that were appointed to sell the bills of exchange drawn by His Honor, the Governor, in consequence of an act of the General Assembly, upon Mr. Agent Partridge, having performed that service, made the following report, to wit:

“Newport, March 16, 1750–1.

To the Honorable General Assembly:—Whereas, an act of this Assembly, directed His Honor, the Governor, to draw bills of exchange on Mr. Richard Partridge, of London, agent for this colony, for £1,742 6s. 10d., sterling, and appointed us, the subscribers, a committee, to sell said bills of exchange, for bills of credit emitted by this colony;\*

In obedience to said act, we have disposed of bills drawn on said Partridge, to the amount of the aforesaid sum, payable at twenty days' sight, for bills of credit of this colony, at eleven hundred per cent. ; and are, gentlemen,

Your most humble servants,

GEORGE WANTON,      PETER BOURS,  
DANIEL JENCKES,      THOMAS CRANSTON.”

An Act to prevent all persons keeping house within this colony, from entertaining Indian, negro or mulatto servants or slaves.†

\* This £1,742 6s. 10d., sterling, at eleven hundred per cent., was in old tenor equal to £20,908 2s. 0d.

† This act provided that no Indian, mulatto or negro servant or slave, may pre-

It is voted and resolved, that George Wanton and Peter Bours, Esqs., together with Messrs. Joseph Harrison and Matthew Robinson, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee to make the draught of a letter, respecting the northern boundary line of this colony, to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and present the same to this Assembly at their next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the £25,000 in bills of credit, by this Assembly ordered to be emitted, be proportioned to the several towns, as followeth, to wit :

	£	s.		£	s.
Newport .....	2,750	00	Jamestown .....	501	15
Providence .. . . .	2,750	00	Charlestown .....	475	00
Portsmouth.....	1,378	15	West Greenwich...	546	05
Warwick .....	1,197	00	Coventry .....	447	10
Westerly .....	1,450	00	Exeter .. . . . .	725	00
New Shoreham ..	415	00	Middletown .....	745	00
North Kingstown..	1,725	00	Bristol .....	872	10
South Kingstown..	2,350	00	Tiverton .....	700	00
East Greenwich....	625	00	Little Compton....	837	10
Smithfield .....	1,395	00	Warren .... . . .	575	00
Scituate.....	860	00	Cumberland .....	517	10
Glocester .....	788	15	Richmond .....	372	10

And it is further voted and resolved, that the committee men for the several towns, take for each of the mortgages and bonds in these bills, one half of the sum allowed to the committees who let out the last bank, and 1s. 3d. of the same bills, for every right which shall be transferred; and that no one person take out of said bills, more than £37 10s., or less than £3.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the grand commit-

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sume to be absent from the family whereto he or she shall respectively belong, or be found abroad in the night time, after 9 o'clock, unless it be upon some errand for his or her respective master or mistress, or owner. The act also prohibited all traffic with any servant or slave.

tee purchase plates for the colony, and get them engraved after the best manner they can; and that the bills be printed on the back; and such other devices used, as the grand committee shall think needful, to prevent the counterfeiting of said bills; that the said committee procure paper for impressing said bills, draw money out of the general treasury for that end, and get them impressed; that the grand committee, or any three of them, shall sign said bills; and that when and as soon as the said bills shall be impressed, the plates shall be delivered to His Honor, the Governor.

Whereas, there is an act of Assembly, which among other things, directs the choosing of town committee men, annually, and this Assembly having taken the same into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that that part of said act that directs the choosing the said towns' committee men annually, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Whereas, Jonathan Randall, Richard Steere and Thomas Lapham, Esqs., Capt. Joseph Harrison and Mr. William Robinson, were by the General Assembly, at their session, held in Newport, on the first Wednesday of May last, appointed commissioners to run and settle the northern boundary line of this colony, according to the royal charter, &c.; and the aforementioned gentlemen having assumed that province, and performed that business, made report as follows, to wit:

*Report of the Commissioners on the Northern Boundary Line.*

Colony of Rhode Island, &c. To the Honorable General Assembly, to sit at Providence, in for the said colony, on the third Monday in March, 1750:

Whereas, this Honorable Assembly, at their session in Newport, in for said colony, on the first Wednesday of May last past, did, by an act of Assembly, constitute and appoint us, the subscribers, a committee, and invested us with full power and authority, to run and settle the northern boundary line of this colony, according to the royal charter, granted by King Charles the Second, in the year of our Lord, 1663; and also, to appoint times and places, when and where to meet commissioners that were or should be appointed on the part of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, to appoint a surveyor or surveyors and chainmen, and in general to act and do all and every matter and thing for and concerning the aforesaid settlement of said line; and that in case no commissioners on the part of said Province, should and did on the first Tuesday of October, thence next after, or at any other time as should be agreed on to meet us, the said com-

mittee, and agree to run and settle said line as aforesaid, then, and in that case, we or the major part of us, were thereby required to run and settle the said line ex parte, and to draw a plat of the land contained within said line; and with our report to this Assembly, as by said act and His Honor, Governor Green's commission for that purpose, reference being thereto had, will at large appear.

By virtue whereof, we, the said committee, do report, that on the second Tuesday of October last past, we repaired to Lieut. Pelatiah Man's, in Wrentham, where we expected to be met by a committee on the part of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, agreeably to the notification of our meeting, then given by Matthew Robinson, one of our committee, to Col. John Chandler, who was then one of the committee, for said Province; and after waiting two days for them, and no person appearing on the part of said Province, we entered upon the execution of our said commission ex parte.

We appointed a surveyor and chainmen, and before we attempted to run any line or lines, or make any survey, we thought it necessary to consult the charter of the colony, to find the said northern boundary line, whereby this government is thus bounded:

"And on the north or northerly, by the aforesaid south or southerly line of the Massachusetts colony or plantation;" whereby we were referred to the Massachusetts colony charter, which we find thus expressed: "All that part of New England, in America, aforesaid, which lies and extends between a great river there, commonly called Monomack, alias Merimack, a certain other river there, called Charles river, being in a bottom of a certain bay there, commonly called Massachusetts, alias Massachusetts, alias Massachusetts Bay; and also, all and singular those lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying within the space of three English miles on the south part of the said Charles river, or of any and every part thereof; and also, all and singular the lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying and being within the space of three English miles to the southward of the southernmost part of the said bay, called Massachusetts, alias Mattachusetts, alias Massachusetts Bay; and also all those lands and hereditaments whatsoever, which lie and be within the space of three English miles to the northward of the said river called Monomack, alias Merimack; or to the northward of any and every part thereof; and all lands and hereditaments, whatsoever, lying within the limits aforesaid, north and south, in latitude, and in breadth and in length and longitude, of and within all the breadth, aforesaid, throughout the main land there from the Atlantic and Western sea and ocean on the east part, to the south sea on the west part;" which said charter having been vacated in 1684, we find that by the new charter granted by King William and Queen Mary, to the said Province, there is granted "all that part of New England, in America, lying and extending from the great river, commonly called Monomack, alias Merimack, on the north part, and from three miles northward of the said river, to the Atlantic or Western sea or ocean on the south part, and all the lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying within the limits aforesaid, and extending as far as the outermost points or promontories of land called Cape Cod and Cape Mallabar, north and south, and in latitude, breadth, and in length and in longitude of and within all the breadth and compass aforesaid; throughout the main land there, from the said Atlantic or Western sea and ocean on the east part, towards the South sea; or westward, as far as our colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut and the Narragansett country."

And upon comparing the words of the said charters together recited, as aforesaid,

it appeared, that the first thing necessary, was to find the southernmost part or parts of said Charles river; in order whereto, we surveyed the same, beginning on the 12th day of October, Anno Domini 1750, a little below the bridge, called the New Bridge, near Partridge's house; from hence the course of said river runs northward; and also proceeded upwards so far as where Hopping Brook and Second Bridge river meet and form said Charles river, being at the corner of Hollistown and Bellingham; and having accurately planned the said survey with the various turnings and windings of the said river, we found the southernmost part thereof to be about four rods to the westward of the place where Mill Brook falls into said river, which is thirty-six poles south, thirty degrees west from the said bridge, called the New Bridge; and from the said place or turning, where Mill Brook falls into said river, we measured accurately with two wooden poles, three English miles, due south, which terminated upon a shrubby plain, in Wrentham, where we made a monument with a heap of stones, and set up a pine stake in said heap of stones. From whence, we run a due west line to where it intersects a due north line from Pawtucket Falls; which intersection is the north-east corner of this colony, and is about fifty rods north-easterly from Robert Blake's house, in Wrentham; and at the said north-east corner, we erected a monument, with a heap of stones at a pitch pine tree, then proceeded to run a due west line; and in the running said course, we marked divers trees and made observations of particular and notable places, to know said line by, as follows:

Said line passed about sixty rods southward of Wrentham West Precinct meeting house, just touched the southernmost part of Thompson's river, alias Second Bridge river, in Bellingham; passed about four foot to the northward of Uriah Thayer's barn, and eleven rods to the northward of William Thayer's house, in Mendon, and between Thomas Taft's house and barn, and four rods southward of Ebenezer Burt's house, and crossed the farm of Nathan Rosen, near his house, about fifty rods eastward of Blackstone's river; then passed about fifteen rods northward of Samuel Read's barn, then to a remarkable pine tree, about one hundred rods to the south-east of David Draper's house, in Uxbridge, and passed about fourteen rods southward of Isaac Martin's house, in Douglass, and about ten rods northward of Jonathan Wheeler's house, in Sutton, crossed Manchaug pond, where the brook runs out; then crosses an arm of the said pond, and passes about five rods northward of Leonard's, in Douglas, then to the north-west corner, which is made by an intersection of the dividing line between Connecticut and this colony, which was continued, to make said corner, where we erected a monument of stones, near to a large white oak tree, which we marked.

During the whole of our proceedings, as aforesaid, we made frequent observations, of the variation of the compass, and made allowances accordingly; finding it generally to be about eight degrees westward.

And whereas, we find, by the report made by the committee on the part of this colony, that run the north line of said colony, in the year 1749, that "they found a place where Charles River formed a crescent southerly, which place is known to many by the name of Popotatick pond, which we take to be the southernmost part of said river, from the southernmost part whereof they measured three English miles, south," we thought it necessary to inquire into the same, to see if the said pond was any part of said Charles river; and found upon strict examination, that it could by no means be deemed any part thereof; for, that there is a ridge, or bank of sand and gravel, that divides between said pond and river on the south side of said river; and

when the stream of said river is low, said bank is almost dry, whereby said pond is distinct from any part of said river; consequently, the set off, made by said committee, was owing to their insufficient examination of the said pond; therefore, their doings thereon, were erroneous, and ought to be rejected.

And whereas, it so happened, that we were obliged to make several adjournments before we could get through with said line, we took special care that notice was given by the secretary of this colony, to the secretary of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, of each and every of our adjournments, except the last, and of the times and places of our meeting, that we might (if possible,) have a committee on the part of the Province to meet us, in order to a full and satisfactory settlements of said line between the said two governments; but as no committee from said Province did, at any time meet us, we proceeded and run said line throughout, *ex parte*.

And in obedience to said act of this Honorable Assembly, appointing us, as aforesaid, we have hereto annexed a plat of the land contained within the aforesaid line; which said line runs as aforesaid; we find, by comparing said charters together, as aforesaid, to be the true north boundary line of this colony, dividing between it and the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay, upon the strictest examination we could make; and of right, the land on the south side thereof, to belong to this colony.

All which, is humbly submitted by—

JONATHAN RANDALL,  
RICHARD STEERE,  
THOMAS LAPHAM,

JOSEPH HARRISON,  
MATTHEW ROBINSON.

Providence, March 16th, 1750-1.

And this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that said report be, and it is hereby accepted; and that the committee aforesaid, be, and they are hereby further continued; and they, or the major part of them, have the liberty to make all needful and necessary additions to the report, aforesaid, and plat therewith delivered in.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the last day of April, 1751.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Capt. George Wanton,

Mr. James Arnold,

Mr. Jonathan Nichols,

Mr. William Richmond,

Mr. John Potter,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1751.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Robert Haszard, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Nathaniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Peter Bours,

Mr. Edward Scott,

Mr. Jonathan Easton,

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Capt. Job Bennett.

## DEPUTIES.

*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
 Mr. Elisha Brown,  
 Mr. Joseph Wanton,  
 Mr. Christopher Harris.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
 Mr. John Allen,  
 Mr. Thomas Brownell,  
 Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt,  
 Capt. John Greene,  
 Major John Rhodes,  
 Major Stephen Low.

*Westerly.*

Col. Joseph Pendleton,  
 Capt. Caleb Church.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. John Dodge,  
 Mr. Abel Franklin, Jr.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
 Mr. Beriah Brown.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. Jeremiah Niles,  
 Mr. Benjamin Peckham, Jr.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
 Capt. Thomas Spencer.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. John Hull,  
 Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Arnold,  
 Mr. John Aldrich.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
 Capt. Charles Harris.

*Glocester.*

Maj. Richard Smith,  
 Capt. Timothy Wilmot.

*Charlestown.*

Col. Christopher Champlin,  
 Capt. Nathaniel Lewis.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
 Mr. George Gardner.

*Coventry.*

Mr. George Hall,  
 Mr. John Greene.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Reynolds,  
 Mr. Benoni Hall.

*Middletown.*

Mr. John Rogers,  
 Mr. Peter Barker.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Jonathan Peck,  
 Mr. Joseph Russell.

*Tiverton.*

Capt. John Manchester,  
 Mr. Samuel Durfey.

*Little Compton.*

Lieut. Col. John Hunt,  
 Mr. Charles Brownell.



## DEPUTIES.

*Warren.*

Capt. John Adams,  
Mr. John Cole.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
Mr. John Dexter.

*Richmond.*

Mr. Samuel Tift,  
Capt. Joseph Enos, Jr.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon,  
clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Mr. Jonathan Nichols,  
Mr. Nicholas Cooke,  
Mr. Jabez Bowen,  
Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. James Arnold,  
Mr. William Richmond,  
Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday in June, 1751.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Coggeshall, Stephen Hopkins and Job Randall, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to form the draught of a letter to be sent from the agent, and present the same to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Coggeshall, William Anthony, Jr., and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to examine into the state and circumstances of the several ferries in this colony; examine the laws relating thereto, and report to this Assembly, at their next session, what they shall think necessary to be done, in order to put said ferries under a good regulation.

Whereas, sundry persons, who call themselves inhabitants of this colony, have lately petitioned His Majesty, respecting our paper currency;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Jabez Bowen, Esq., Mr. Elisha Brown and Joseph Nichols, Esq., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to inquire into the relation, station and circumstances which the said petitioners stand in, to His Majesty and this colony, and make report to this Assembly, at their next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Cook and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., Col. Immanuel Northup, and Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to examine into the facts contained in a petition preferred to His Majesty, by sundry of the inhabitants of the colony,—a copy of

which is now lying before this Assembly—and report their opinion thereon, as soon as may be.

And the said committee having assumed the province assigned them, made the following report :

“ We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee by the General Assembly, to examine the matters of fact contained in a petition preferred to His Majesty, by sundry of the inhabitants of this colony, and to report our opinion thereon ; and we having taken that business upon us, and having duly examined the facts asserted in said petition, and having carefully inquired into the records of the colony, that have any relation to those matters of fact, do report, as our opinion :—

That the first fact asserted, ‘ That the currency of this government is so far from being fixed, that it hath sunk in its value above one half, within seven years last past ;’ which assertion, we think, is not strictly true.

That the second fact asserted, ‘ That this colony hath now outstanding, the sum of £525,335, in bills of public credit ; which, upon examination, we find not to be true ; there not being, at the date of the petition, bills amounting to that sum, outstanding.

That as to the other facts, asserted in this petition, we, on the most exact examination, cannot say, but that they are strictly true.

NICHOLAS COOKE,

JEREMIAH LIPPITT,

STEPHEN HOPKINS,

IMMANUEL NORTHUP.

Newport, June 17, 1751.”

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted.

Whereas, upon occasion of the death of His late Royal Highness, Frederick, Prince of Wales, &c., it was ordered by His Majesty’s privy council, that a particular form shall be observed, in praying for the royal family ; and this colony have

received directions to cause the same to be published in the several parish churches, and other places of Divine worship within this colony,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to cause proclamation to be made, that said order be observed throughout this colony, according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Nichols, Stephen Hopkins and Peter Bours, Esqs., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to take into consideration the petition of the sugar planters, merchants, and others, trading to, and interested in His Majesty's sugar colonies, in America, and to collect and gather such facts as shall be thought proper, to furnish the agent with, as necessary in opposing said petition; and to that end, the said committee are hereby invested with full power to send for persons and papers from any part of the colony; and that said committee prepare a letter for His Honor the Governor, to sign, to be sent to the neighboring governments, requesting their assistance in the affair.

It is voted and resolved, that the copy of the petition preferred to His Majesty, by sundry inhabitants of this colony, respecting the paper currency, with the petitioners' names thereto, together with the resolutions of the House of Commons thereon; and also the bill prepared in consequence thereof, and presented to Parliament, be forthwith put into print, at the colony's charge; and that two hundred copies thereof, be struck off, and that each of the members of the General Assembly, each of the towns' committee for letting out the bank money (being not a member of the Assembly), and each town clerk, in this colony, be furnished with a copy; and that the secretary procure the same to be done.

Whereas, Jonathan Easton, of Middletown, in the county of Newport, represented unto this Assembly, that upon the report of Messrs. Robert Lawton, Jonathan Peck and Matthew Allen, to the General Assembly, concerning a way from Easton's Beach, easterly, in the town of Middletown, aforesaid, the

town council for the town of Middletown, were ordered and empowered to lay out a drift-way of a convenient breadth, across the land of him, the said Jonathan Easton, in part according to the direction of said report ; in consequence whereof, the said council did proceed and lay out said way, but not according to the said directions of the General Assembly, in the place where the old way used to be, but in another place ; and by altering the ancient way, the said road where it passeth through the said Jonathan Easton's land, is twenty-eight rods in breadth ; although that part where it so passeth through his land, is but twenty-five rods in length ; so that the order of the General Assembly is disobeyed, and the said Jonathan greatly hurt, and the public no way benefited thereby ; whereupon, he prayed relief, &c. ;—

And this Assembly having taken the premises into consideration, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Arnold, Job Randall and Christopher Harris, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to go and examine into the circumstances of the drift way, in said petition mentioned ; and that the said committee, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby directed and fully impowered to determine how, and in what manner, and of what width the said drift way shall run through the lands of the said Jonathan Easton, at his, the said Easton's charge ; and that their report in the matter be final.

And the said committee having entered upon, and performed the business, made the following report :

“ Whereas, we, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, by the General Assembly, to settle and state part of the drift way through Middletown, from beach to beach, through Jonathan Easton's land, do report as followeth :

To begin at the northern and easternmost gate, that stands where the old bars were, upon the dividing line between Edw. Easton's and Jonathan Easton's land ; and to begin one rod northward of said gate, and to run s. 80, e. twenty-five rods, near to a rock, and to be four rods wide, lying south of said

line, as it appears by the plan abovesaid, which we think to be sufficient drift way.

JAMES ARNOLD,

JOB RANDALL,

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS.

June 19, 1751."

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration, and duly examined the same, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £200 be allowed and paid to Capt. Joseph Harrison, and Mr. Matthew Robinson, out of the general treasury, towards satisfying them, for their time, trouble and expenses, as commissioners in the service of the colony, respecting the northern boundary line.

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Capt. Joseph Harrison and Mr. Matthew Robinson, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to examine into all the circumstances and matters of fact, relating to the northern boundary line of this colony, with full power to procure all such evidences, records and papers, as may be thereunto necessary, and to correspond and join with the colony of Connecticut, or a committee by them appointed, if it be found most expedient, in the prosecution of that affair; and upon the whole, to prepare as complete a state of the case as they are able, and to lay the same before this Assembly at their next session, or as soon as the same can conveniently be done.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Monday of August, 1751.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Edward Scott, Peter Bours and Edward Easton, Esqs., together with the secretary, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee, to collect all the public laws and acts of this colony that have been made since the termination of the printed book, and put them into print, and make a book thereof, with a proper table; and that five hundred such books, and no more, on any pretence whatsoever, be printed; the whole to be at the charge of the colony; and when done, to be lodged in the hands of the general treasurer.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said committee take security of the printer, that he will not print, or suffer to be printed in his press, any greater than the above mentioned number; and that one of said books be delivered to each town clerk in the colony, to and for the use of each respective town.

The committee that was appointed by this Assembly, at their last session, to inquire into the relation, station and circumstances of sundry persons, who (calling themselves inhabitants of this colony,) lately petitioned His Majesty, respecting our paper currency, made the following report:

“To the General Assembly, now sitting in Newport, the 22<sup>d</sup> of August, A. D. 1751:

By virtue of the vote of the General Assembly, in June last, appointing us to inquire into the relation, station and circum-

stances, which certain persons, lately petitioners to His Majesty, stand in to His Majesty and this colony, as by said vote may appear, we have inquired into the same, in the best manner we are capable, for the time, and do report :

That we find, upon the best information we can obtain, that all but twelve of the said petitioners are freemen of this colony, or of some town or other in this colony ; and that, as to their relation, station or circumstances, we find that two of the are officers, to wit : Ebenezer Richardson, is the justice of the peace, in this colony, in the county of Newport ; and that the circumstances of some of them, are visibly very considerable ; but the circumstances of others are to us unknown.

JABEZ BOWEN,  
ELISHA BROWN,  
JOSEPH NICHOLS."

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that the draught of a letter to our agent in Great Britain, made by a committee, appointed for that purpose, be, and the same is hereby approved ; and that a fair copy thereof, be made, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent to the agent, by the first opportunity.

Whereas, the bills of credit that have been emitted by this colony, have all along, from their first being current as a medium of exchange, depreciated, and gradually grown less in their value, down to this time, which hath occasioned many people to complain, and that with just cause, that they have been sufferers by such the alteration of the medium established by the laws of this colony ; therefore, for the preventing any such inconveniency from happening for the future,—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that in all debts that now are, or hereafter shall become due in this colony, by any manner or way whatsoever, that for every sixty-four shillings appearing to be



due in old tenor bills, or for every 16s. appearing to be due in new tenor bills, or for every six shillings and nine pence appearing to be due in the bills emitted in March, A. D. 1750, the debtor at the time of payment, shall pay as much in any of the aforementioned bills, as at the time of payment are really and truly worth one ounce of silver, of sterling alloy; and that all judgments in all the courts in this colony, shall at all times hereafter, be made up agreeably to this act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no court shall at any time hereafter, in this colony, make up judgment against any man for any debt, whatsoever, that does not exceed sixty-four shillings, in old tenor bills, or sixteen shillings in new tenor bills, or six shillings and nine pence, in the bills emitted in March, A. D. 1750, for more of said bills than at the time of making up such judgment, are truly and really worth one ounce of silver of sterling alloy at that time; and so in proportion for any greater or less sum.

*Protest.*

“ We, the subscribers, do dissent from and protest against this bill, for the following reasons :

1. Because we are of opinion, that the method proposed in this bill will not prevent a further depreciation of the bills we have now outstanding, which are fixed by laws of the colony, at a very different value from what they are stated at in this bill.

2. Because our bills of the new tenor are, by the acts whereby they were emitted, of the same value as the bills by the act of March passed to be emitted; and it is manifestly absurd and unjust, that six shillings and nine pence of the one, should be made equal to sixteen shillings of the other.

3. Because six shillings and nine pence in bills of the new tenor, are by a law of this colony, made in May, 1741, equal only to twenty-seven shillings in bills of old tenor; but by this bill, sixty-four shillings in our old tenor bills, are made equal to six shillings and nine pence in bills of the same value as the bills of the new tenor, which appears to us to be manifestly unreasonable and unjust.

4. Because if this bill should pass into a law, we apprehend that the public faith and credit of the government will be violated.

Newport, August 23, 1751."

PETER BOURS,  
EDWARD SCOTT.

The gentlemen that were appointed to audit the accounts of the committee that paid off the officers and soldiers raised in this colony for the expedition intended against Canada, presented this Assembly with the following report and account:

The colony of Rhode Island, &c., to Stephen Hopkins,		Dr.	
		Sterling.	
		£ s. d.	
		Currency.	
		£ s. d.	
1750, Oct. 31.	To money paid to the officers and soldiers raised for the Canada expedition, per account rendered.....	1,295 10 7	12,955 5 10
	900 per cent. exchange, or 10 for 1, is	19 08 1	194 0 10
	<b>Balance due to the colony,</b>	<b>£1,314 18 8</b>	<b>13,149 6 08</b>
The colony of Rhode Island, &c., to Stephen Hopkins,		Cr.	
		Sterling.	
		£ s. d.	
		Currency.	
		£ s. d.	
1749, June 17.	By the muster roll of the company in His Majesty's service, raised in this colony, for the reduction of Canada; first commanded by Capt. William Rice, until his death; afterwards, by Capt. Nathan Carpenter.....	1,314 18 8	
	900 per cent. exchange, or 10 for 1, is		13,149 6 8

"We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, a committee to audit the accounts of that committee, which was appointed to pay off the officers and soldiers raised for the intended expedition against Canada, do report conformably to said appointment:

We have audited the above account of Stephen Hopkins, Esq., one of said committee, and do find there is due from him to the colony, £194 10s., old tenor, as appears by the above account stated.

JOSEPH WHIPPLE,  
JOHN TILLINGHAST,  
THOMAS CRANSTON."

Dated Newport, August 21, 1751.

The colony of Rhode Island, Dr.

To our time and trouble, auditing the above account; likewise auditing the account of Messrs. George Wanton and James Sheffield; two others of said committee..... £45 0s. 0d.

JOSEPH WHIPPLE,  
JOHN TILLINGHAST,  
THOMAS CRANSTON."

And now this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration, and duly examined the same,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted; that the amount charged by the committee against the colony, be allowed, and £45, the amount thereof, paid them out of the general treasury.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday in October, 1751.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, upon His Majesty's creating His Royal Highness, Prince George, Prince of Wales, he was pleased to order in council, that a particular form of prayer should be used in praying for the royal family, and hath directed this government to cause the same to be published in the several parish churches, and other places of divine worship, within this colony, &c,—

This Assembly therefore vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, cause proclamation to be made of the aforesaid order throughout the colony, requiring it to be observed according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

Whereas, the town of Providence, did, by Stephen Hopkins, Esq., one of their deputies, represent unto this Assembly, that in and near said town, for some time past, there hath been, and still is carried on, a considerable trade by sea, whereby the small pox hath of late been very often brought into said town; and as there is no pest house in that part of the colony for the receiving such infected persons, there is very great danger of the distemper's spreading; which (should it happen) would be

of very fatal consequence to this colony ; he therefore, in behalf of said town, prayed a grant of such a sum of money out of the general treasury, as this Assembly shall think reasonable for the purpose aforesaid ; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £600, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, towards building a pest house, for the end and purpose, aforesaid.

And that Mr. William Smith, of Providence, be empowered to draw said sum, for the use aforesaid, upon sufficient security's being lodged in the general treasury that all parts of the government shall have the privilege of making use of said house as often as occasion shall require ; the county of Newport excepted.

Whereas, Thomas Haszard, keeper of His Majesty's jail, at South Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, by petition, represented unto this Assembly, that on the 24th of February last, one Thomas Carter, of Newport, was committed to said jail, for the murder of William Jackson, late of Virginia ; that said Carter was by the said Haszard, safely kept in said jail, till the 10th of May, when he was executed ; that from a general fear, which spread itself through the country, that attempts might be made to rescue said Carter, the petitioner was forbidden by the authority, to entertain strangers or travellers, and was obliged to be constantly at home, to his great loss, &c. ; and thereupon prayed that the sum of £5 per week might be allowed and paid him, out of the general treasury ; this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and it is hereby granted.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1751, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in the year 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act in addition to an act, entitled " An act prohibiting sports and labor on the first day of the week," made and passed by the General Assembly, May 6, 1679. (March.)

An Act for promoting the raising flax and wool, and manufacturing the same into cloth ; and also for giving a proper and suitable encouragement for carrying on

- the whale and cod fishery ; and for these ends, making and emitting the sum of £25,000 in bills of public credit of this colony, and settling and ascertaining the value thereof. (March.)
- An Act to prevent all persons keeping house within this colony, from entertaining Indian, negro or mulatto servants or slaves. (March.)
- An Act for reviving the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, of the county of Newport. (March.)
- An Act for granting an excise upon wines, liquors and other strong drink, sold by retail within the town of Newport. (March.)
- An Act to prevent breaking lamps, that are already, or shall hereafter be set up in the town of Newport. (March.)
- An Act for the preventing of damage to be done by the firing of the woods in any town in this colony.
- An Act in addition to an act, entitled " An act for granting an excise upon wines, liquors and other strong drink, sold by retail in the town of Newport." (May.)
- An Act for amending, explaining and repealing several paragraphs in the act passed in March, of the present year, for promoting the raising of flax and wool, the encouragement of the whale fishery, etc. etc. (June.)
- An Act regulating and establishing a just and equal mode of gauging, throughout the colony. (June.)
- An Act for naturalizing Francis Ferrari, of Newport, merchant, late a subject of the Republic of Genoa. (June.)
- An Act for erecting and establishing the office of notary public, in the town of Providence. (August.)
- An Act increasing the allowance to insolvent debtors, in His Majesty's jail, and that of poor prisoners at the King's suit. (August.)
- An Act for naturalizing Peter Simon, of Newport, merchant, late a subject of the French king. (August.)

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Tuesday in February, 1751-52.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session in June last, appointed Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Capt. Joseph Harrison and Mr. Matthew Robinson, a committee, to examine into all the circumstances, and other matters of fact, relating to the northern boundary line of this colony, with full

power to procure all such evidences, records and papers, as may be thereunto necessary; and to correspond and join with the colony of Connecticut, or a committee by them appointed (if it be found most expedient), in the prosecution of that affair; and upon the whole, to prepare as complete a statement of the case as they are able; and to lay the same before the Assembly as soon as it can conveniently be done; and the business remaining still unperpetrated,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Thomas Arnold, Esq., be, and he is hereby added to said committee; and that they, or any two of them, proceed on the affair, and complete it as soon as the same can be well done; and make report of their doings to this Assembly, at their next session.

Whereas, William Barber and others represented to this Assembly that sundry of the inhabitants of Westerly had petitioned their town council, to order two highways to be laid out in said town; one from Wood river, to Exeter; and the other from Crandall's Mill, through said town, northerly, to meet with the said intended highway; and notwithstanding the said petitioners had showed the said town council the necessity of said highways, their petition was rejected; whereupon, they made application hither: and this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration, and duly weighed the arguments of the parties,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Robert Lillibridge, Esq., Stephen Richmond, Esq. and Mr. Benjamin Brown, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee, with full power to lay out highways, agreeably to the prayer of the aforesaid petition, and agree with the owners of the land, through which said highways shall run; or in case they cannot agree, then to set a price on the land that shall be so converted into highways; that the whole charge be paid by the town of Westerly; and that the said committee make report to the General Assembly, at their next session.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, some time

past, being well informed of the great necessity of paving the streets of Newport, and more especially, that leading from the colony house, did, for that end, grant a public lottery; but some of the directors declining being concerned therein; and the time for drawing the same elapsed;—

It is therefore voted and resolved by this Assembly, and by the authority thereof, that the said lottery be, and it is hereby revived in the following manner, viz.:

The lottery shall consist of twelve thousand and five hundred tickets, at £4 old tenor, each; three thousand and forty-nine of which, to be fortunate, in the following manner:

[Here follows the scheme of the lottery.]

Whereas, Col. Christopher Champlin and Capt. Nathaniel Lewis, deputies of Charlestown, did, in behalf of said town, represent unto this Assembly, that they are under great difficulty and disadvantage, for want of some convenient harbor or landing, for transportation, it being about sixteen miles from said town to Point Judith Pier, and almost as far to Pawcatuck River, which places are the nearest harbors they have to depend on; which they set forth to the General Assembly, some years past, who appointed a committee to inspect into the circumstances of said affair, and find out whether said difficulty might not be remedied, by turning a branch of Pawcatuck [river] into a large salt pond, in said town; which stream of water (when turned into said pond,) will undoubtedly keep open a large breach running out of said pond into the sea; that the committee did view and examine into the affair, and reported to the Assembly, that it might be very well effected, and that without an extraordinary charge, &c.; that upon the report of said committee, the Assembly, in their wisdom, passed an act for turning said river for the purpose aforesaid, on conditions which were not easily to be performed by the petitioners; they being to procure sufficient bonds, to make and maintain such and so many bridges as should become necessary, and occasioned by turning said river; and also to carry on the

fourth part of said work, the other three parts to be done at the charge of the colony; that now the conditions enjoined by said act of Assembly, are performed, &c.; whereupon, they prayed to be directed to go on in the aforesaid work, agreeably to the aforesaid act of Assembly; and that the colony's part of the charge be paid out of the interest of the present bank, &c.; and this Assembly having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Haszard, Jeremiah Lippitt and Joseph Nichols, Esqs., together with Messrs. Joseph Harrison and Isaiah Wilkinson, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee, to inspect into all the circumstances relating to the aforementioned affair, and form an estimate of the cost and charge of performing said work, and report to this Assembly at their next session.

It is voted, resolved and declared, that the true intent and meaning of the act passed by the General Assembly, in their session at Newport, in June last, for settling and ascertaining the value of silver; that Spanish silver milled dollars pass for fifty-six shillings each, in bills of credit of the old tenor, and for all other bills of credit of the other emissions, equivalent thereto.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 5th day of May, 1752.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,

Mr. Nicholas Cooke,

Mr. Jonathan Nichols,

Mr. Jabez Bowen,



## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Stephen Brownell,	Mr. William Richmond,
Mr. Robert Lawton,	Mr. Geoffrey Watson.
Mr. James Arnold,	

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1752.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Nathaniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Edward Scott,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. Peter Bours,  
Capt. Job Bennett, Jr.

*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
Mr. Elisha Brown,  
Mr. George Brown.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
Mr. John Allen,  
Mr. Caleb Hill,  
Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Capt. John Greene,  
Mr. John Holden,  
Lieut. Col. Stephen Low,  
Mr. Benjamin Arnold.

*Westerly.*

Col. Oliver Babcock,  
Mr. Joshua Babcock.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. John Littlefield,  
Mr. Joshua Sands.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
Mr. Beriah Brown.

## DEPUTIES.

*South Kingsdown.*

Mr. Jeoffry Haszard,  
Col. Thomas Hazard.

*East Greenunch.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
Mr. John Fry.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Joseph Clarke.  
Mr. Josiah Arnold, Jr.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Arnold,  
Mr. John Aldrich.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Capt. Charles Harris.

*Glocester.*

Col. Richard Smith,  
Mr. Andrew Brown.

*Charlestown.*

Capt. Nathaniel Lewis,  
Mr. James Congdon, Jr.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
Mr. George Gardner.

*Coventry.*

Mr. John Greene,  
Mr. Caleb Greene.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Reynolds,  
Mr. Job Tripp.

*Middletown.*

Capt. William Turner,  
Mr. Joshua Coggeshall.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Jonathan Peck,  
Capt. Simeon Potter.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Edward Wanton,  
Mr. Thomas Howland.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. William Hall,  
Mr. Richard Greenhill.

*Warren.*

Capt. John Adams,  
Mr. John Cole.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
Mr. John Dexter.

*Richmond.*

Mr. John Weston,  
Mr. Joseph Hoxsie.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon,  
clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,  
 Mr. Jonathan Nichols,  
 Mr. Nicholas Cooke,  
 Mr. Jabez Bowen,  
 Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
 Mr. James Arnold,  
 Mr. William Richmond,  
 Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
 Mr. Jeoffrey Watson.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

## GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

The united committees of the colony of Connecticut, and of this, presented the Assembly with the following report, viz :

*Report on the Northern Boundary.*

“We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assemblies of the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, respectively, to examine into all the matters of fact, records, evidences, papers and circumstances relating to the northern bounds of the said colonies, towards the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, with authority in behalf of each colony, to join together and correspond in the prosecution of this matter; and in pursuance of the things committed to us, we met together at Hartford, in the colony of Connecticut, and having duly examined, to the best of our abilities, the whole of this dispute, have agreed to jointly make the following report :

That we find King Charles the First, in the fourth year of his reign, granted a charter to the Massachusetts colony, bounding them southerly in these words: ‘And a certain other river there, called Charles River, being in the bottom of a certain bay there; and also all and singular those lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying within the space of three English miles, on the south part of said Charles River, or of any and every part thereof; by which description, compared with the other parts of said charter, it plainly appears, that the place or point, which is three English miles south from the most southern part of Charles River, is the place where a line ought to commence and run from thence due west, to form the southern boundary of the abovesaid Province.

That afterwards, King Charles the Second, in the fourteenth year of his reign, granted a charter to the colony of Connecticut, and in the fifteenth year of his reign granted a charter to the colony of Rhode Island; and in his said charters bounded both the said colonies northward, on the south line of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

That the said colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, lying far distant from the place or point where the said Massachusetts south line ought to commence, were

utterly ignorant about it; nor doth it appear they ever concerned themselves about the knowledge thereof, until the inhabitants on both sides began to settle pretty near the place where it was supposed the line would pass; and many disorders and confusion arising among those borderers, made it necessary to find where the dividing line between the Province and the said colonies ought to be; which occasioned both the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island to apply to the Province, to have the said line ascertained and marked out; and that when commissioners in order thereto were first appointed by the colony of R. Island, in the year 1710-11, and by the colony of Connecticut, in the year 1713, to meet with commissioners appointed by the said Province, with intent to find the true place where the said Province south line ought to commence; who being for that purpose met, the Province commissioners informed them that the point or place for their south line to commence at, had long before, in the year 1642, been found out and fixed by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, skillful artists, by the said Province appointed for that purpose: and also showed forth a plan or map, (as they then asserted) of the doings of the said Woodward and Saffery, on which was deciphered the southernmost part of the said Charles River and a station, said to be by them erected, standing three miles (and no more) south from the southernmost part of the said Charles River, and confidently affirming the said measure to be rightly made; and the said station to be truly affixed.

And all this matter being out of the knowledge of the commissioners for both colonies; but they, by giving credit to, and believing the said Province commissioners, were thereby induced, the commissioners for Connecticut, on the 13th day of July, 1713, and the commissioners for Rhode Island, finally in October, 1718, to agree that the stake or station set up and erected by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, in the year 1642, should be the place for the said Province south line to commence at, fully believing they had been told, and as by the said plat, it appeared, that the said station was no more than three miles south from the southernmost part of Charles River, agreeably to the Massachusetts charter.

That in consequence of the said agreements entered into as aforesaid, the said colony of Connecticut, in the said year 1713, and the colony of Rhode Island in the year 1719, appointed persons called riding commissioners, to meet with persons in the same character, appointed by the said Province, to go and begin at the place in the said agreements mentioned (three miles south of the southernmost part of said Charles River) and marked out the said dividing line, according to the respective charters; who meeting with the said Province commissioners, and not being acquainted in that part of the country, nor having knowledge of the places where the said Woodward and Saffery's station was, the said Province riding commissioners deceitfully carried them to a place on Wrentham Plain, affirmed, that there the station erected by Woodward and Saffery, had formerly stood; and the said colonies' commissioners not knowing, but really believing it was the right place, and within three miles of Charles River, (though in truth the place so shown them, was seven miles and fifty-six poles more southward than the southernmost part of Charles River) did there begin, and did run and mark out a line, as the true line south of the said Province; and in consequence of the line so run, though it was so erroneously done, the said Province have hitherto exercised and held the jurisdiction.

That the truth of those several facts is clearly made to appear; the first, by the Massachusetts charter; the second by the Connecticut and Rhode Island charters; the third, by the face of the agreements themselves, and by the copy of the pre-

tended plan of Woodward and Saffery; the fourth, that the place began at by the riding commissioners, is really seven miles and fifty-six poles to the southward of the most southern part of Charles River, by the plan or map drawn by Mr. Joseph Harrison, and proved by Henry Harris, Esq., and Mr. Israel Wilkinson, who have actually and accurately measured the said distance.

That the place they measured from, is really the most southern part of Charles River, is proved by the original grants of the towns of Medfield, Wrentham, Medway, Bellingham and Holliston, all towns within the said Province; and also by a great number of grants of lands to private persons; all which serve to show what is, and always was called Charles River; and also to show that the small stream (now called Mill Brook), and pretended now by the Province to cover their aforementioned deceit, to be the southern part of Charles River, is only a small brook, and was never at any time called Charles River, but was all along known by the name of Jack's Pasture Brook, and Mill Brook; and can no more properly be called a part of Charles River, than the water in the clouds may fitly be so called, if it should chance to fall in such place as to be conveyed to the sea in the channel of said river.

That an agreement procured and perfected in the manner aforesaid, is so far from altering the true lines and limits of jurisdiction, and thereby depriving or abridging the people of those privileges and advantages granted them by their sovereign, that we are humbly of opinion, it is not in the power of any to whom the right of jurisdiction is granted by the King, to transfer the same to any other, though it might be pretended to be done on the most reasonable and equitable motives, and on the most certain knowledge; for if this were allowable, the several provinces and colonies in America might all transfer their right of jurisdiction to some one, and thereby erect one great and dangerous government, without the knowledge of, and contrary to the express intention and interest of the crown, that first granted such rights of jurisdiction, but never made them assignable.

That it appears to us clearly, that the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, have all along, and still do hold the jurisdiction of a tract of land four miles and fifty-six poles in breadth, and the whole length of the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, which they have no right to the jurisdiction of, and are humbly of opinion that it is advisable for the said colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island to make their application to the King, their sovereign, praying that he would be graciously pleased to order the south line of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay to be marked out according to their charter; that the said colonies also may hold out and enjoy the privileges granted them by their respective charters.

And lastly, we humbly report, as our opinion, that the state of the cases of the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, with the said Province, appears to be so far similar, that they may safely and fitly join together, and correspond in the prosecution thereof, so far as to procure an order from the crown to have the said Province south line rightly settled; and that the necessary expenses arising thereon, be paid equally between the said colonies.

Agreed to, by **ROGER WOLCOTT, JR.,** **STEPHEN HOPKINS,**  
**PHINEAS LYMAN,** **THOMAS ARNOLD.**

Hartford, April 4, 1752."

And this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the gentlemen appointed a committee by the colony, respecting the northern boundary line, be, and they are hereby continued for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Restcom Sanford, be, and he is hereby appointed to perambulate that part of the colony line which runs between Little Compton and Dartmouth, at the charge of Little Compton.

Whereas, a great number of gentlemen and others, inhabitants of the county of Kings county, preferred a petition to the General Assembly, held at South Kingstown, in February last, and among other things set forth, that the court house and jail on Tower Hill, in said South Kingstown, being in a remote corner of the county, expose the inhabitants to great inconveniences ; and both are so far gone to decay, that it will take a great deal of money to put them in tolerable repair ; that they can never be made good, being miserably built at first ; that it will be a continual charge to keep them fit for use, so that the most prudent way will be, to have them pulled down, and others erected in their steads, at a place called Little Rest Hill, in South Kingstown, being near the center of the county, where Col. Elisha Reynolds and others, offering to give lands, and build a court house and jail at their own cost and charge.

On the other hand, a remonstrance was filed by several gentlemen and others, in answer to the said petition, offered to repair the court house and jail, on Tower Hill, at their own charge.

Both which papers were taken into consideration, at that time, and the Assembly ordered the several towns of that county to be served with copies, which was done accordingly ; and report being now made by the clerks of the several towns,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said petition herein first named, be, and the

same is hereby granted; provided Col. Elisha Reynolds, Mr. William Potter and Major Latham Clarke, give bond to the general treasurer, in the sum of £20,000 for the performance of all the conditions mentioned in their petition; and for the court house being so far finished, as to be fit to hold court in by the first Tuesday of August next; and the jail and jail house, not less than the jail and house in the county of Kent; these last to be built and fit to receive prisoners before any part of the old jail house and jail be pulled down or removed; and that said court house, and jail house, and jail, be completely finished within one year from the rising of this Assembly.

God save the King.

*The Lords Commissioners, &c., to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, March 13, 1752.

Gentlemen:—In obedience to His Majesty's command, signified to us by his order in council, of the 11th instant, containing regulations with respect to His Majesty's colonies and plantations in America, and the conduct of governors and other officers there, we herewith transmit you a copy of said order, that you may govern yourselves accordingly.

So we bid you heartily farewell, and are

Your loving friends and humble servants,

DUNK HALIFAX,

J. PITT,

FRAN: FANE,

J. GRENVILLE,

JAMES OSWALD,

DUPPLIN,

CHARLES TOWNSHEND,

ANDREW STONE.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Holderness to Governor Greene.*

Whitehall, March 30th, 1752.

Sir:—I have His Majesty's command, to transmit to you, the copy of an order in council, calculated for the future regulation and government of His Majesty's American colonies; and likewise send you enclosed, the copy of a letter which the King has directed me to write to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, explaining the method in which it is his royal pleasure their lordships should put in execution the said order of council; and you will accordingly receive an additional instruction, from the said lords commissioners for trade and plantations, directing you for the future to address your letters to their lordships *only*, except in such cases, as may require His Majesty's more immediate directions; and it is the King's pleasure that you should, for the future, conform yourself to the said order of council.

But where, as it may happen, that circumstances of a very high and important nature may arise, which may require the utmost secrecy, it is the King's pleasure, that if any such occur, within the district of your government, you should forthwith, with the utmost diligence and exactitude, transmit an account thereof to one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state *only*; and you are, in such case, to follow all orders and directions, which His Majesty shall think proper, to direct one of his principal secretaries of state to transmit to you in consequence thereof.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

HOLDERNESSE.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Order of the King in Council.*

At the Court, at St. James,  
the 11th day of March, 1752.

Present,

The King's Most Excellent Majesty,

Lord President,	Earl of Harcourt,
Lord Privy Seal,	Lord Berkely, of Stratton,
Lord Chamberlain,	Lord Cornwallis,
Duke of Atholl,	Mr. Vice Chamberlain,
Duke of Newcastle,	Mr. Chas. of the Exchequer,
Earl of Holderness,	Lord Chief Justice Willes,
Earl of Jersey,	Sir John Bushout,
Earl of Cholmondely,	Sir John Ligonier,
Earl of Buckinghamshire,	Sir George Lee.

His Majesty, having taken into his consideration the flourishing state and condition of the manufactures, trade and commerce of these kingdoms; and also the state and condition of his colonies and plantations in America, and elsewhere, with respect as well to their trade and commerce, as to their civil policy and government; and whereas, it doth appear to His Majesty, that the said colonies and plantations have of late years, been greatly improved, the wealth of his subjects much increased, and the navigation of these kingdoms extended by the mutual intercourse between them and the said colonies, and by the trade and commerce arising therefrom; and His Majesty being sensible of how great importance it is to His crown and government, and how much it will contribute to the satisfaction, convenience and advantage of his subjects, that all due care be taken, and proper and necessary regulations made, for the further improvement and extension of the manufactures and commerce of these kingdoms, and for the encouragement, protection and security of the said colonies and plantations,—

His Majesty therefore, is graciously pleased, with the advice of His privy council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, do, with all diligence, care and concern, apply themselves to a faithful and vigorous execution and discharge of all the trusts and powers vested in them by their commission, under the great seal.

And whereas, nothing can more effectually tend to the peace, welfare and good government of the colonies and plantations, than the appointment of able, discreet



and prudent persons to be governors, lieutenant governors, and other officers and magistrates;—

It is therefore hereby further ordered, that the said lords commissioners for trade and plantations, do, from time to time, as vacancies shall happen by deaths or removals, present unto His Majesty in council, for his approbation, the names of such persons as the said commissioners, from the best of their judgment and information, shall think duly qualified to be governors or deputy governors, or to be of His Majesty's council, or of his counsel at law, or secretaries in the respective plantations; and likewise, to present to His Majesty, for his approbation, the names of all other officers which have been, or may be found necessary for the administration of justice, and the execution of government there; excepting only such as are, or may be appointed for the direction and regulation of His Majesty's customs and revenues; and such as are, or may be under the directions and authority of the lords commissioners of the admiralty.

And when any persons shall have been approved of by His Majesty in council, for any of the above mentioned offices, the said lords commissioners shall (unless His Majesty shall otherwise direct) prepare and make out proper draughts of such commissions, warrants or instructions, as may be thought necessary to be given to such officers, in order to be laid before His Majesty, in council, for his royal approbation; and when any persons shall be presented to His Majesty, for any of the other offices of an inferior nature, not judged necessary to be laid before His Majesty in council, and yet shall have otherwise received His Majesty's approbation, the said lords commissioners shall, in those cases (unless His Majesty should otherwise direct), prepare and make out proper draughts of commissions, or warrants necessary to be given to such officers, in order to be laid before His Majesty, for his royal approbation accordingly.

And it is hereby further ordered, that the said lords commissioners for trade and plantations, do execute and perform all other things necessary or proper for answering the intentions of their said commission.

And whereas, the governors of all His Majesty's colonies and plantations, in America, more immediately under His Majesty's government, are, in particular cases, as well as in general, directed by His Majesty's instructions to transmit unto His Majesty, by one of His principal secretaries of state, and to the commissioners for trade and plantations, accounts from time to time of all their proceedings, and of the condition of affairs within their respective governments.

And whereas, it will tend to the benefit of the said colonies, the ease and convenience of His Majesty's subjects, and the greater regularity and despatch of business, if the correspondence be confined and pass through but one channel,—

It is therefore further ordered, that the said lords commissioners do prepare the draught of an additional instruction to be sent to the governors of all His Majesty's said colonies and plantations respectively; signifying His Majesty's pleasure, that in all cases wherein, by His Majesty's instructions, they are directed to transmit any particular or general accounts of their proceedings, or of matters relative to their governments, they do, for the future, transmit the same to the lords commissioners for trade and plantations *only*, in order that they may be laid before His Majesty.

Provided, nevertheless, that whenever any occurrences shall happen within their respective governments of such a nature and importance as may require His Majesty's more immediate directions, by one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state: and also upon occasions, and in all affairs, whereon they may receive His

Majesty's orders, by one of his principal secretaries of state, the said governors shall, in all such cases, transmit to the secretary of state *only*, an account of all such occurrences, and of their proceedings relative to such orders.

And it is hereby further ordered, that a copy of this order, be transmitted to the said lords commissioners for trade and plantations, to be entered upon the books of the plantation office; and that the said commissioners do likewise transmit copies thereof, to the governors of His Majesty's colonies and plantations, respectively, to the end that all persons concerned, may govern themselves accordingly.

WM. SHARPE.

*Secretary Holderness to the Board of Trade.*

Whitehall, 30th March, 1752.

My Lords:—An humble representation having been laid before the King, setting forth the present flourishing state of His Majesty's colonies in America, as well with regard to the number of inhabitants, as to the increase of trade in those parts of His Majesty's dominions; and that it is highly necessary that the greatest care and attention should be had to the good government of, and regular administration of justice in the said American colonies, His Majesty was graciously pleased to refer the said representation to a committee of the King's Most Honorable Privy Council, directing them to consider of the properest means for obtaining this desirable end; and the same committee having made thereon their humble report to the King, His Majesty was pleased to direct an order of council, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, and to which Your Lordships will please to conform yourselves hereafter.

And whereas, Your Lordships are hereby directed to prepare a draught of an additional instruction to be sent to the governors of all His Majesty's said colonies and plantations, directing them to correspond for the future with Your Lordships *only*; excepting in such cases, as may require His Majesty's more immediate directions; I have His Majesty's command to signify to Your Lordships, that it is the King's pleasure you should transmit to one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in order to their being laid before the King, all such letters as shall for the future be addressed to you, from any governor, or other person or persons acting as such, in any of His Majesty's colonies or plantations, in America, which may in any wise relate to his or their conduct towards the governors or other chief officers, of any foreign prince, power or potentate, whatsoever; as also such letters as may relate to the transactions of any foreign governor or other officer, towards them, or any of His Majesty's subjects under their direction and regulation.

And also, that Your Lordships should, in like manner, transmit unto one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, a draught of such answers, as you shall prepare to be given to any such letter or letters, as shall fall within the abovementioned description, in order to its being laid before His Majesty, for his royal approbation; and Your Lordships are hereby directed not to transmit to any of His Majesty's governors, or other person or persons acting as such, any orders or directions, relating to his or their conduct, so far as it may affect or be any wise construed to affect, any foreign prince, power or potentate, whatsoever, until the same shall have received the King's approbation, signified to Your Lordships by one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

As to all other matters of correspondence, which shall from henceforward pass between Your Lordships and the respective governors in America, you will please to proceed in the usual manner.

And whereas, Your Lordships are further directed by the said order of council, from time to time, as vacancies shall happen by deaths or removals, to present unto His Majesty, for his approbation, the name or names of such person or persons as Your Lordships, from the best of your judgment and information, shall think duly qualified, to be governors or deputy governors, or to be of His Majesty's council, or of his counsel at law, or secretaries in the respective plantations; and likewise to present to His Majesty, for his approbation, the names of all other officers, which have been, or may be found necessary for the administration of justice, and the execution of government there, excepting *only* such as are, or may be appointed for the direction and regulation of His Majesty's customs and revenues, and such as are, or may be under the directions and authority of the lords commissioners of the admiralty.

I have the King's directions, to inform Your Lordships of his royal intention, as to the manner of your proceeding herein, viz.: that in all such cases, where the names of proper persons for any of the offices above mentioned, have usually been laid before His Majesty in council, Your Lordships are to follow the same method for the future.

And in all other cases provided for by this order of council, Your Lordships are to transmit to one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, to be by him laid before the King, for His Majesty's approbation, the names of such persons as you shall judge the most capable of executing any such office or trust, as specified in the above mentioned order of council. I am, my Lords,

Your Lordships' most humble servant,

HOLDERNESSE.

To the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

*Copy of an Instruction from His late Majesty, to all his Governors in America.*

Whereas, the governors of such of our colonies and plantations, in America, as are more immediately under our government, are, in particular cases, as well as in general, directed and required by our instructions to transmit unto us by one of our principal secretaries of state, and to our commissioners for trade and plantations, accounts from time to time, of all their proceedings, and of the condition of affairs within their respective governments.

And whereas, it doth appear to us, that it will tend to the benefit of our said colonies and plantations, the ease and convenience of our subjects, and the greater regularity and despatch of business, if the correspondence be confined to, and pass through but one channel;—

It is therefore our express will and pleasure, that in all cases wherein, by our instructions, you are directed to transmit any particular or general accounts of your proceedings, or of matters relative to the affairs of our province under your government, you do for the future, transmit the same to our commissioners for trade and plantations only, in order that they may be laid before us.

Provided, nevertheless, and it is our express will and pleasure, that whenever

any occurrences shall happen within our said province under your government, of such a nature and importance as may require our more immediate direction, by one of our principal secretaries of state; and also upon all occasions and in all affairs whereon you may receive our orders by one of our principal secretaries of state, you shall, in all such cases, transmit it to our said secretary of state, only, an account of all such occurrences, and of your proceedings relative to such orders.

*The Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, April 23, 1752.

Gentlemen:—We herewith enclose to you, an instruction from their Excellencies, the Lords Justices, directing and requiring you to cause a true and authentic copy to be made of all the laws now in force within the colony of Rhode Island, and to transmit the said copy to us, in order to be laid before His Majesty, in his privy council, to which you will not fail of paying a due obedience.

So we bid you heartily farewell, and are

Your very loving friends and humble servants,

DUNK HALIFAX,

DUPLIN,

J. PITT,

CHARLES TOWNSHEND.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*By the Lords Justices Granville P. Gower, C. P. S. Marlborough, Holderness.*

Whitehall, April 16, 1752.

Instructions to the Governor and Company of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in America, for the time being. Given at Whitehall, this 16th day of April, 1752, in the twenty-fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

Whereas, by the charter granted by His late Majesty, King Charles the Second, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America, bearing date at Westminster, the 8th day of July, in the fifteenth year of the said King's reign, the said Governor and Company, are empowered to make, ordain, constitute or repeal such laws, statutes and ordinances as to them shall seem meet for the good and welfare of the said company; provided, such laws, statutes and ordinances be not contrary and repugnant, but as near as may be, agreeably to the laws of this realm of England.

And whereas, appeals are frequently brought before His Majesty, in His privy council, from the judgment and decrees made in the several courts of judicature, within the said colony, the determination whereof depends upon being duly informed of the laws subsisting within the same;—

It is therefore His Majesty's will and pleasure, and you are hereby directed and required to cause a true and authentic copy to be made of all the laws, statutes and ordinances now in force within the said colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and to transmit the same, duly authenticated, under the public seal of

the said colony, to the commissioners for trade and plantations, as soon as conveniently may be, in order to be laid before His Majesty, in his privy council.

G. P. G., C. P. S. M., H.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 1st day in June, 1752.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that the superior court of judicature of this colony, be, and they are hereby directed to permit John Pearce and Thomas Pearce to appeal to His Majesty, in council, from a judgment obtained against them, by John Rice, agreeably to the orders of His said Majesty, in council, now before this Assembly; any law to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the superior court meet in the county of Kent, on Tuesday, the 16th day of this instant June, for the purpose aforesaid; and that the said John Rice be notified thereof, and served with a copy of this act, together with a copy of said order of His Majesty, in council.

Whereas, the laws of this colony exempt sundry officers and other persons of divers professions, from serving on the jury, which hath been found by experience, to include too great a number of the inhabitants, and protect the most sensible and substantial freemen of the government from so necessary a duty; by reason whereof, it often happens, that causes of the greatest importance are decided by men of slender abilities, and little credit, to the great detriment of public justice; for remedy whereof,—

Be it enacted by this Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that no freeholder of this colony, whatsoever,

shall be exempted or protected from serving as a juror at any time hereafter, excepting such person or persons as do, or have sustained the several posts or offices hereafter enumerated, viz. :

The office of governor, deputy governor, assistant, secretary, attorney general, general treasurer, of a judge of the superior court of judicature, and of the inferior court of common pleas, who shall be forever exempted ; and also, whilst in office, the keeper of the grand committee's office, the clerks and sheriffs of each county, with their general and acting deputies, and the sergeants and officers attending upon the courts, and all justices of the peace in commission, saving that they shall be obliged to serve in case of life and death, where tithe of land is concerned, if returned upon a venire facias, or taken up as a talesman ; and also, all the attornies practicing in any of the courts of common pleas, or superior courts of judicature ; and also, all physicians that live by their practice ; ministers of congregations of every denomination, are hereby exempted.

Provided, that nothing this act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to repeal any part of an act, entitled "An act exempting the persons appointed to work the engines in Newport, from several duties," &c.

Whereas, Col. Daniel Abbot, and others, represented that the General Assembly of this colony, in the year 1711, ordered a highway or road to be laid out through the lands of Providence, Wesconoid and Warwick, leading into the center of Connecticut, by the way of Plainfield ; and accordingly Nicholas Lang, Esq., then high sheriff of the colony, empannelled a jury of twenty-four good and sufficient men, who performed said work, and that there are still alive some persons that were present in doing the same ; that the said road or highway, hath ever since been improved as such ; that great cost and labor hath been bestowed to amend it, and several sums of money granted by the government, to make bridges for travellers to pass at all times over the several rivers, without any difficulty ; and it is now become a great road ; notwithstanding which, the town of Coventry have passed a vote

to alter said highway, or road, and lay it in such a critical place, that should it take effect, it would absolutely ruin the aforesaid road or highway; for there is a long hill, near half a mile, stony and pungy, and over which the new road must pass; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to appoint a committee of three men, the most acquainted with said highway or road, and a surveyor, to revise the old bounds, if to be found, and where they are wanting, to make new; to keep the now travelled and beaten road that has been so much worked upon and amended, and set the breadth, three poles; thus the bounds being fixed, will instruct the settlers by said road, where to build their stone walls, and run other fences, &c.; upon consideration whereof,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Stephen Hopkins, Job Randall and Charles Harris, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee, to revise the bounds of the ancient highway or road, aforesaid, at the charge of the petitioners; and make report thereof to the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the draught of a letter, made by the committee, to be sent to the agent, be accepted and approved of; and His Honor, the Governor, is desired to order a fair copy thereof made, and sign the same, to be sent to the agent by the first good opportunity.

Whereas, John Peirce, of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, yeoman, by petition set forth that he was sued to an inferior court of common pleas, held at Providence, in December term, A. D. 1751, by John Mawney, of said Providence, Esq., in an action of the case for suing him, the said Mawney, in the county of Kent, for some misconduct in his office, as sheriff of the county of Providence, whereby the said Peirce apprehended he had sustained some injury; and at said inferior court, held at Providence, the said John Mawney recovered judgment in his favor, to have and receive from the said John Peirce, the sum of £100; from which, both parties appealed to the superior court held there, in March last past, where the same matter was again considered, and judgment there was

rendered that the said John Mawney should recover of the said John Peirce £200; both which judgments the said Peirce apprehends are erroneous; and more especially for that the same was tried illegally at the superior court; there being on the jury at both trials, one Grindal Rawson, which the said Peirce at the time of trial was altogether ignorant of; he therefore prayed said judgments might be set aside, and all process thereon stopped.

On consideration whereof, and by consent of both parties, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the judgment of the superior court aforesaid, be, and the same is hereby annulled and declared void; and that the said John Peirce have another trial of said cause, at the next superior court of judicature, to be held at Providence, within and for the county of Providence.

God save the King.

*Governor Greene to the Agent of Rhode Island, in London.*

Rhode Island, 4th June, 1752.

Sir:—This colony have lately received a letter from the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, enclosing the copy of an order of the King, in council, of the 11th of March last; by which the said lords commissioners are directed and empowered to present to His Majesty all officers that have been, or may be found necessary, in any of the plantations; a copy of which, is herewith sent you; and though this colony entertain a grateful sense of His Majesty's just and equal government, and from thence are led to hope that nothing is intended by the said order to the prejudice of the charter privileges of this colony; yet, as the colony are extremely fond of the valuable privileges they enjoy, and finding the said order run, in terms so very general, are in fear, that something may be intended by it to their disadvantage; and their fears are further increased, by finding the said letter and order forwarded to them by Mr. William Bollan, and not by you, as is usual.

I am therefore directed by the General Assembly to desire you to make diligent inquiry about the design and intention of the said order, and if need be, advise with counsel about it; and if you find it is intended to operate in this colony, so as to take away, or any way lessen our charter privileges, immediately to advise the colony of it, and use all endeavors in your power to prevent any thing being further done in consequence thereof.

You will easily imagine how much uneasiness the very thoughts of losing our liberties, creates in the inhabitants of this colony, and how much dependence they must necessarily have on you, who have been so long their agent; and who, they look



upon by principle, as well as interest, so much a friend to liberty, that on such an occasion, you will exert yourself to the uttermost.

Having no further directions from the General Assembly, who rely wholly on your prudence, diligence and judgment in this matter, I conclude, and am—

Your true friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

To Richard Partridge, Esq.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the third Monday in August, 1752.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that every person who shall drive a loaded cart or trucks upon any part of the pavement lately laid in Queen street, from the colony house, to the east side of Thames street, in Newport, shall forfeit and pay a fine of £5 for every offence; to be recovered before any two justices of said town, by the town treasurer; which fine shall be to and for the use of said town.

It is voted and resolved, that that part of the laws of the colony, which have been lately printed, be lodged with the general treasurer, to be sold at thirty shillings per book.

Whereas, Messrs. Robert Lillibridge, Stephen Richmond and Benjamin Brown, were, by the General Assembly, at their session in South Kingstown, on the last Tuesday of February last, appointed a committee to lay out highways in the town of Westerly, &c., and were directed to make report of their doings in the premises, &c.; which province they undertook, and of their proceedings reported as followeth, to wit:

*Report of the Committee on Highways in Westerly.*

Westerly, March 16, 1752.

Whereas, we, Robert Lillibridge, Stephen Richmond and Benjamin Brown, being appointed a committee, by the General Assembly, at their last session, to lay out highways in Westerly, agreeably to the petitioners of said Westerly, and make report to the next sitting of Assembly; whereby we have, and do report, conformably to said appointment, as follows:

Firstly, from Wood River, through the north end of Westerly, to Exeter, according to the courses and distance, as follows: beginning at Wood River, adjacent to the highway that leads from said river, to the ferry, and thence west, eleven and a half degrees north, twelve chains and sixty links, to a pine tree; thence west, one and a quarter degrees north, nine chains and twenty-five links, to a pine tree; thence north, fifty-six degrees west, eight chains and ninety-five links, to a pine tree; thence north, fifty degrees west, twelve chains and fifty-two links, to a pine tree; thence north, thirty-six degrees west, thirty chains, to a stake and stones, north, forty-three and three quarters degrees west, twenty-five chains and fourteen links, to a stake and stones; thence north, sixty-eight and a quarter degrees west, three chains and eighty links, to a heap of stones; thence west, eighteen degrees south, thirteen chains and seventy-five links to a stake, sixteen foot off of the south-west corner of Benjamin Barber's house; thence north, fifty-seven degrees west, fourteen chains and ninety links, to a rock; thence west, eight and a half degrees south, thirty-three chains, to a white oak bush; thence west, seven and a quarter degrees north, thirty chains, to a high rock; thence north, fifty-eight degrees west, twenty-six chains, to a dry tree; thence north, seventy-one and a quarter degrees west, six chains and seventy links, to a white oak tree; thence west, eight and a half degrees north, three chains and eighty-five links, to a stake; thence north, forty-six and three quarters degrees west, two chains and eighty-seven links, to a black oak tree; thence north, sixty degrees west, four chains and sixty-two links, to a heap of stones; thence north, seventy-two and three quarters degrees west, twenty-one chains and sixty-two links, to a black oak tree; thence west, thirteen and one half degrees north, two chains and seventy-nine links, to a rock, north, sixty-two and one half degrees west, twelve chains and forty-nine links, to a stake; thence north, thirty-five and one quarter degrees west, thirty-one chains and eighty links, to a stake; thence north, forty-six and a half degrees west, thirteen chains and forty-two links, to a pine tree; thence north, thirty-one and one quarter degrees west, twenty chains, to a stake and stones about it; and thence the same course to Exeter line, &c.; all which courses and distances, is of the northward side of the highways; which highway is four rods wide, &c.

And here are the courses and distances of the second highway, as follows:

Beginning at a stake and stones about it, on the westward side of the abovesaid highway, it being at the most northernmost turn in the aforesaid highway; from thence south, thirty-one and a half degrees west, sixty-one chains, to a black oak tree; thence south, ten degrees east, twelve chains and seventy-five links; thence south, six chains, twelve degrees east, twenty-eight chains and twenty-five links, to a black oak tree; thence south, twenty-seven degrees east, twenty-seven chains and fifty links; thence south, six chains, &c., to a stake; thence south, thirty-seven degrees west, twenty-seven chains and fifty links, &c.; thence west, nine chains and ninety links to a

white oak tree; thence south, fifty-five and a half degrees west, fourteen chains and seventy-five links, to an oak tree; thence south, thirty-two and a half degrees west, three chains and fifty links, to a chestnut tree; thence twenty-four and a half degrees west, four chains and forty-one links to a walnut tree; thence south, thirty-eight and a half degrees west, one chain and sixty-eight links, to a white oak tree; thence west, thirteen and three quarters degrees south, seven chains and fifty-seven links, to a white oak tree; thence west, one and one quarter degrees south, three chains and seventy-five links, &c.; thence north, seventy-one degrees west, three chains; and thence north, fifty-seven and a half degrees west, three chains and forty-three links, to a black oak tree; thence west, six degrees north, three chains and ninety-four links; thence south, thirty-seven degrees west, two chains and twenty-three links, to a white oak tree; thence south, sixty-three degrees west, one chain and nine links, to a black oak tree; thence south, thirty-one and one half degrees west, five chains and twenty-two links, to a black oak tree; thence south, seventeen degrees west, three chains, and eighty-one links; and thence south, sixty-four and a half degrees west, three chains and forty-seven links, to a black oak tree; thence west, ten and a quarter degrees south, three chains and ninety links, to a black oak tree; thence west, thirteen and a half degrees north, eight chains and three links, &c.; thence the same course, four chains and thirty-five links, to a dry pine tree; thence west, six degrees north, nine chains, to a pine tree; thence west, seventeen and a half degrees south, three chains and eighteen links, to a rock; thence west, fourteen degrees north, two chains and eighty-seven links; thence west, four degrees north, one chain and sixteen links, to two chestnut trees; thence south, sixty-two degrees west, one chain and eighty links; thence south, sixty-six degrees west, three chains and twenty-five links, to a rock; thence south, thirty-two and one quarter degrees west, eight chains to a stake, through a cedar swamp; thence south, sixty degrees west, three chains and seventy-two links, to a chestnut tree; thence south, fifty-four degrees west, two chains and thirty-nine links, to chestnut tree; thence south, twenty-four degrees west, two chains and seventy links, to a bush; thence south, twenty-one and one quarter degrees east, two chains and fifty links, to a black oak tree; thence south, six degrees east, one chain and eighty-seven links, to a heap of stones; thence south, fifty-seven and a half degrees west, three chains and fifty-five links, to a white oak tree; thence south, three and a half degrees west, two chains and seventy-five links, to a forked chestnut tree; thence south, forty-six and a half degrees east, two chains and forty-one links, to a black oak tree; thence south, forty-seven and a half degrees east, five chains, to a high rock; thence south, fifty degrees east, six chains and ninety-three links, to a white oak tree; thence south, nine and a half degrees east, two chains and twenty-five links; thence south, thirty-nine degrees west, one chain and fifty links, to a black oak tree; thence south, forty-one and a half degrees west, one chain and forty-four links; thence south, eleven and three quarters degrees east, one chain, and ninety links; thence south, fourteen degrees west, four chains and thirty-four links; thence south, twenty degrees west, eleven chains and twenty-five links, to a rock; thence south, eight and a half degrees east, fourteen chains and ninety-three links, to a black oak tree; thence south, twenty-nine and a half degrees east, four chains and seventy-one links; thence south, twelve and a half degrees east, sixty-four chains, to a stake and stone about it; thence south, seven and one quarter degrees east, twenty-five chains and fifty links, to a stone heap; thence south, twenty-seven degrees west, seven chains and

eighty-one links, to a white oak tree; thence south, forty-six degrees west, four chains and twenty-five links, to a black oak tree; thence south, forty-six and a half degrees west, two chains and eighty-eight links, to a black oak tree; thence south, sixteen and a half degrees west, three chains and sixty-four links; thence south, fourteen degrees west, ten chains, to two sapling oaks; thence south, nineteen and a half degrees west, three chains, and twenty-five links, to a black oak tree; thence south, thirty-seven and a half degrees west, three chains and fifty seven links, to the corner of Samuel Hill's land, all which courses and distances being on the north and west side of said highway, and is four rods wide, and the remaining part three rods wide; continuing on the same side of the highway, &c.; thence south, two and three quarters degrees west, nine chains and ninety-five links, to a black oak tree; thence south, eighteen and a half degrees east, four chains and forty-four links, to a black oak tree; thence south, fifteen and a half degrees west, seven chains and fifty links, to a rock; thence south, nine and a half degrees west, three chains and twelve links, to a white oak tree; thence south, two and three quarters degrees west, ten chains and fifteen links, to a bush; thence south, fifteen degrees west, two chains and fifty links, to a white oak tree; thence south, fourteen and one quarter degrees west, one chain and eighty-eight links, a little east of a spring; thence south, twenty-four and a half degrees west, five chains and fourteen links; thence south, twenty-one degrees west, two chains, and sixty-one links, to two black oaks; thence south, two and three quarters degrees west, six chains and seventy-one links, to an oak tree; thence south, eighteen and three quarter degrees west, thirteen chains and eighty-six links; thence south, thirteen degrees west, seven chains and fifty links, to a stake and stones about it; thence south, eighteen and three quarters degrees west, eight chains, to a dry tree; thence south, half a degree east, twenty-eight chains and eleven links, to a stake and stones; thence south, six and a quarter degrees west, six chains and forty-four links, to a stake and stones; thence south, nine and three quarters degrees west, thirteen chains and seventy-five links, the same course, thirteen chains and sixty-six links, to a stake; thence south, sixty-five degrees west, seven chains and twenty-five links, to a stake; thence south, ten degrees east, nineteen chains and six links, to a stake; thence south, thirty degrees east, one chain to a stake; thence south, sixty degrees east, and sixty-four links, to a stake; thence south, thirty-one degrees east, three chains and seventy-one links, to a black oak tree; thence south, six and a half degrees east, nine chains and forty-six links, to do.; thence south, fourteen degrees east, seven chains and eighty-seven links, to a white oak tree; thence south, eighteen degrees east, one chain and seventy-eight links, to a stake; thence south, fifteen degrees west, two chains and sixty-seven links, to a stake; thence south, thirty-three and a half degrees west, seven chains and seventy links, to a black oak bush; thence west, one quarter of a degree north, ten chains and fifty links, to Capt. Maxson's corner; thence south, nineteen and a half degrees east, three chains and fifty-five links, to a stake; thence south, thirty-five degrees west, four chains and twenty-nine links, to a rock and stones on it; thence south, thirty degrees west, twelve chains and twenty-five links, to a stake and stones; thence south, two and a half degrees east, and five chains; thence south, twenty-two degrees west, five chains and sixty-four links, to an apple tree; thence south, thirty-one degrees west, four chains to a stone, and thirteen links, to the south of Capt. Maxson's door, &c.; thence south, forty-two degrees west, one chain and seventy-three links, to a gate post; thence south, thirty-one degrees west, three chains and nine

links, to a stake; thence south, sixty-three and a half degrees west, five chains and fifty-two links, to a stake and stones; thence south, seventy-four degrees west, seven chains, to a heap of stones; thence south, twenty-two degrees west, one chain and fifty links, to the same course, seven chains, to a chestnut tree; thence south, twenty-five degrees west, ten chains and fifty-six links, to a stake; thence south, fifty-two and a half degrees west, two chains and ninety-three links, to a white oak tree; thence south, fifty and a half degrees west, six chains and forty-two links, &c.; south, fifty-one and one quarter degrees west, sixty-seven chains and eighty-eight links, to a stake; thence west, sixteen degrees south, three chains and eighty-six links, to a cherry tree; thence south, thirty-nine and a half degrees west, two chains and sixty-one links, to a cherry tree; thence south, twenty-six and a half degrees west, two chains, and seventy-five links, to a stake and stones; thence south, five degrees west, four chains and thirty-eight links, to a stake and stones; thence south, seventeen degrees west, four chains, to a stake and stones; thence south, twenty-six and a half degrees west, six chains and fifty-nine links, to Equire Randall's land; thence south, twenty-eight and a half degrees west, seven chains and fifteen links, to a white oak tree; thence south, thirty-six degrees west, three chains and nine links, to a birch tree; thence south, twenty-nine degrees west, one chain and eighteen links, to a stake; thence south, thirty-two degrees west, two chains and ninety links, to a black oak tree; thence south, fifteen degrees west, three chains, to a stake; thence south, nine and three quarters degrees west, ten chains and seventy-two links, to a stake; thence south, seventeen and a half degrees west, four chains and thirty-four links, to a stake; thence south, fifteen and a half degrees west, nine chains and thirty-four links, to a stake; thence south, twenty-four degrees west, two chains and eighty links, to a stake; thence south, thirty-eight degrees west, eight chains and fifteen links, to a stake and stones; thence south, twenty-six and a half degrees west, twelve chains and ninety-five links, to a stake and stones; thence south, twenty-nine degrees west, eight chains, the same course, eight chains and twenty-five links more; thence south, twenty-seven degrees west, six chains and eighty-eight links, to a stake; thence south, fifty-two degrees west, and five chains and seventy-five links, to a white oak tree; thence south, sixty-four degrees west, five chains, to a stake; thence south, sixty-one degrees west, two chains and twenty-nine links, to a stake; thence west, thirteen degrees south, sixty-nine links, to a rock; thence west, eighteen degrees north, three chains, to a stake, by the river; thence south, twelve degrees west, over the river, to the west side of the bridge, by Crandall's Mill.

The following is the quantity of land taken up in the said highways, and prized to the proprietors, that we could not agree with, &c.; and in the following manner the proprietors' names are subscribed to the right hand of his quantity of land, and value thereto.

[Here follows a list of the several parcels of land, with the value affixed thereto.]

	£	s.	d.
Second highways total.....	349	2	10
First " " .....	50	4	09

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£399 7 07

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1752.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1752, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in the year 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

- An Act empowering the freemen of the town of Providence to take up a convenient piece of land for building a pest house. (February.)
- An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act to prevent the spreading of the small pox, and other contagious diseases, in this colony." (February.)
- An Act to prevent the small pox [from being] brought into the colony by strangers and travellers coming from infected districts. (May.)
- An Act in addition to an act, regulating and establishing a just and equal method of gauging, in and throughout the colony. (May.)
- An Act regulating the proceedings in cases of bastardy. (June.)
- An Act enabling the justices of the inferior courts of common pleas to hold special courts on certain occasions. (June.)
- An Act exempting sundry persons from making oath or affirmation, notwithstanding the general laws of the colony, made about suing out executions. (June.)
- An additional Act for the establishing and regulating of fees. (August.)
- An Act for stating and better regulating the several ferries in this colony. (August.)
- An Act for raising money by way of lottery, to reimburse what money was advanced by Obadiah Brown, David Whipple, John Dexter and Paul Tew, in building a bridge over Pawtucket River, and for completing said bridge. (August.)
- An Act to prevent detaining fines from the proper offices to which they belong. (August.)
- An Act for regulating appeals from judgments obtained upon notes of hand, in any of the inferior courts in this colony. (October.)
- An Act to empower the town councils of the respective towns in the colony to exchange highways. (October.)
- An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act directing the method of receiving petitions into, and acting thereon, in the General Assembly." (October.)

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Tuesday in February, 1752-53.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph, Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, a number of gentlemen and others, inhabitants of the county of Kent, have represented unto this Assembly, that in consequence of an act made and passed at their session, in June, A. D. 1750, whereby E. Greenwich, Warwick, W. Greenwich and Coventry were made a distinct county, provided the inhabitants of said towns would, by free contribution, erect and build a court house in East Greenwich, near the bigness of the court house in Providence, fit to hold a court in, by the last day of October, then next ensuing; they have, with others, erected and built said house, agreeably to said act, which was signified to the General Assembly, at their session in Providence, October, A. D. 1750; and that said house is unfinished within, which renders it uncomfortable in the winter; in the coldest part of which season, one court is held at said court house; and that the inhabitants of said county, though they have cheerfully contributed towards the building said house, find they are not able to complete it, although it is absolutely necessary to be done; and therefore have prayed this Assembly that a lottery may be granted them, as the easiest method to raise money sufficient for finishing said court house; and now, this Assembly, taking the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that there be a lottery set up, for finishing the court house, in the county

of Kent, aforesaid ; and for erecting a fence around the jail, in said East Greenwich.

An Act for naturalizing Stephen Decatur, now residing at Newport, in this colony, late a subject of the French king.

Whereas, the said Stephen Decatur, hath represented unto this Assembly, that he has for some time resided in Newport, aforesaid ; and sailed from the said place in the employ of several merchants ; and has also married a wife in said Newport, and is willing to become a subject of His Brittanic Majesty ; and therefore prayed this Assembly, that an act of naturalization might be passed, rendering him a subject of His said Majesty, as fully and amply to all intents and purposes, as if he were born so ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the said Stephen Decatur be, and he is hereby naturalized, and for ever hereafter shall be adjudged and taken to all intents and purposes to be naturalized ; and is rendered and made equal in all respects to a free born subject of this colony ; provided, he take the state oath, and all other oaths by law required.

God save the King.

*Petition of the Governor and Company of Rhode Island to the King.*

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty :

The petition of your loyal subjects, the Governor and Company of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America.

Most humbly sheweth ;—

That Your Majesty's royal predecessor, King Charles the First, in the fourth year of his reign, granted a charter to the colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, and bounded the said colony on the south, by a certain place or point, which was three English miles south of the southerly part of a certain fresh river there, commonly known by the name of Charles River ; and by a line commencing at the said place or point, and running due west, through the continent.

That King Charles the Second, in the fifteenth year of his reign, granted a charter to the said colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and bounded them northerly on the south line of the said colony of the Massachusetts Bay.

That the country through which the dividing line between the said two colonies would pass, not being then inhabited, no attempts appear to have been made by



the colony of Rhode Island, to have the said line settled, until the year 1710, when commissioners were appointed by both said colonies for that purpose; who being met, the Massachusetts commissioners informed those of Rhode Island, that the place or point, for their south line to commence at, had been rightly found out and ascertained long before, by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, skillful artists, by them appointed for that end, in the year 1642; and showed a plat or map, of their doings (as they pretended), in which Charles River was deciphered, and a mark made for a stake standing three miles due south, from its most southern part; and the Rhode Island commissioners being wholly unacquainted in that part of the country, and giving credit to the Massachusetts commissioners, were induced, in the month of October, in the year 1718, to agree that the stake set up by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, in the year 1642, upon Wrentham Plain, be the station, or commencement to begin the line, which shall divide between the two governments.

That in the year 1719, persons were appointed by both said colonies, called riding commissioners, to run and mark out the said dividing line; who, instead of beginning at a place three miles, and no more, from the southern part of Charles River, agreeably to the Massachusetts charter and the true intent of the agreement aforesaid, were shown a place where the Massachusetts commissioners affirmed the stake set up by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery, had formerly stood; and the Rhode Island commissioners, not carefully examining into the truth, were prevailed upon to begin at the place so shown to them; and did from thence run and mark out a line, which hath, from that time, been the dividing line between the said colonies.

That on the geography of that part of the country being better known, the colony of Rhode Island, suspecting there was an error in running the line aforesaid, caused an accurate survey to be made of all the southern parts of the said Charles River, and the distance to be exactly measured between the most southern part thereof, and the line aforesaid; and find it on the meridian, seven miles and fifty-four poles; by which it appears, that by the wrong running of said line, the colony or Province of the Massachusetts Bay, do hold the jurisdiction of a tract of land four miles and fifty-four poles in breadth, and about twenty-two miles long, which doth of right belong to the colony of Rhode Island.

That, as the colony of Rhode Island were much imposed upon, and greatly deceived, and injured by their neighbors, of the Massachusetts, in running and marking out the line, aforesaid, in manner, as aforesaid; they humbly hope they shall not be holden to and concluded thereby.

And therefore most humbly pray, that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to order, that the south line of the colony or Province of the Massachusetts Bay, may be rightly run, and marked out, according to the charter granted them, in such manner as in your royal wisdom, you shall think fit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WILLIAM GREENE,

For the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

Newport, Rhode Island, March 2, 1752-3.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 1st day of May, 1753.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,

Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Jonathan Nichols,

Mr. William Richmond,

Mr. Jabez Bowen,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1753.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Edward Scott,

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Mr. Peter Bours,

Capt. Job Bennett, Jr.

Capt. William Mumford,

Mr. Nicholas Easton.

*Providence.*

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. Elisha Brown,

Mr. Daniel Jenckes.

## DEPUTIES.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
 Mr. John Allen,  
 Mr. Caleb Hill,  
 Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Mr. John Peirce,  
 Capt. Randall Rice,  
 Major John Rhodes,  
 Mr. Benjamin Arnold.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock,  
 Mr. Joshua Clarke.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Edmund Sheffield,  
 Mr. John Paine.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. Henry Hall.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. Jeoffry Haszard,  
 Col. Thomas Hazard.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
 Mr. John Fry.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Joseph Clarke.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. John Aldrich,  
 Mr. Thomas Owens.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
 Capt. Thomas Relph.

*Glocester.*

Col. Richard Smith,  
 Capt. Joseph Windsor,

*Charlestown.*

Col. Christopher Champlin,  
 Capt. Joseph Stanton.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
 Mr. Preserved Hill.

*Coventry.*

Mr. John Greene,  
 Capt. John Ulerton.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Reynolds,  
 Mr. Nicholas Gardner.

*Middletown.*

Capt. John Barker,  
 Mr. Handley Chipman.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Joseph Russell,  
 Capt. Simon Davis.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Samuel Durfey,  
 Mr. Edward Wanton.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. William Hall,  
 Mr. Richard Greenhill.

*Warren.*

Capt. John Adams,  
 Mr. Benjamin Miller.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
 Mr. Jeremiah Whipple.

*Richmond.*

Capt. Joseph Enos, Jr.  
 Mr. Simeon Perry.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,

Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Jonathan Nichols,

Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt,

Mr. Nicholas Cooke,

Mr. William Richmond,

Mr. Jabez Bowen,

Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,

Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Jeoffrey Watson.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday of June, 1753.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to erect a new jail and jail house in Providence, be, and they are hereby empowered

to draw out of the general treasury the sum of £1,000, to be appropriated towards carrying on said building.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Monday of August, 1753.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor. ·

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

It is voted and resolved, that James Sheffield and Daniel Jenckes, Esqs., with Mr. William Read, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee for erecting another light house, with stone or brick, at the place where that lately burnt down, stood, as soon as they can conveniently; and that the said committee make use of all the bricks at Fort George, or such part of them as they shall think proper.

Whereas, John Martin, of Jamestown, was brought before this Assembly (when resolved into a grand committee), in consequence of a warrant issued against him, at the last session of this Assembly, for grossly and scandalously abusing them; and it being fully proved that he, the said John Martin, is guilty of the crime laid to his charge,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said John Martin shall be forthwith committed and closely confined to His Majesty's jail, in Newport, without the use of pen, ink and paper; and that no person but the sheriff, shall, without leave of this Assembly, have liberty to speak to, or confer with him, on any occasion whatever; and there to remain till further orders from this Assembly; and the said John Martin was committed accordingly.

On the 23d day of August, John Martin, of Jamestown, was brought before this Assembly, and made and signed the following acknowledgment :

*Acknowledgment of John Martin.*

“Newport, August 23, 1753.

I, John Martin, do hereby acknowledge, that I have grossly and scandalously slandered and abused this Honorable Assembly, for which I am heartily and sincerely sorry, and very humbly entreat Your Honors' pardon ; and promise for the future, never to be guilty of the like crime.

JOHN MARTIN.”

On consideration whereof, this Assembly forgive the said John Martin, and dismiss him, he paying costs.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday in October, 1753.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Joseph Whipple, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build a new jail in the county of Providence, draw out of the general treasury the sum of £1,000 more than hath been already granted towards carrying on said work ; and that said committee sell and dispose of the old jail house, and lot of land thereunto belonging, to the best advantage, and give a good warrantee deed thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Jabez Bowen, Daniel Jenckes and George Brown, Esqs., together with Mr. Job Bennett, Jr, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to view the new court house and jail, in Kings county, and consider whether those persons who became bound to build said court house and jail, have performed the condition of their bond ; and that they make report on the premises, to this Assembly, as soon as conveniently they can.

The gentlemen that were appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of Benjamin Nichols, Esq., presented this Assembly with the following account and report :

*Report of the Auditing Committee.*

Benjamin Nichols, Esq., treasurer of the grand committee, to the colony,	Dr.	
	£	s. d.
1753. To the balance of the last account, as per report of the committee, dated April 22d, 1752.....	897,622	10 4
Benjamin Nichols, Esq., treasurer of the grand committee, to the colony,	Cr.	
	£	s. d.
1753. By cash paid to John Tillinghast, Thomas Cranston, James Sheffield and Peter Bours, Esqs., a committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to receive and burn the same,	20,088	03 9
“ By cash paid to William Collins, of Connecticut, by order of Assembly.....	14	00 0
“ By cash paid Jeremiah Rose, by order of Assembly.....	42	16 0
“ “ “ “ John Whipple, of Gloucester, by order of Assembly .....	82	00 0
“ By £3, new tenor, short in ten bonds, given to discharge a mortgage deed of Robert Wilcox, of North Kingstown, dated June 18th, 1741, is in old tenor.....	120	00 0
“ By ten shillings, new tenor, short in ten bonds given to discharge a mortgage deed of Jeremiah Gardner, of North Kingstown, dated June 5th, 1741, is in old tenor.....	20	00 0
“ By eleven shillings and three farthings short in ten bonds given to discharge a mortgage deed of Stephen Tift, of South Kingstown, dated June 1st, 1741, is old tenor ...	22	02 8
“ By twelve shillings and four pence, new tenor short, in the return of South Kingstown's bond, for their proportion of the seventh bank, in old tenor .....	2	09 4
“ By £37 13s., short in ten bonds, given to discharge a mortgage deed of Thomas Gould, of Charlestown, dated September 4, 1742 ; said bonds being given for £12 11s., when they should have been for £12 11s., new tenor....	376	10 0

	£	s.	d.
1753. By eight shillings, new tenor, short in ten bonds, given to discharge a mortgage deed of James Congdon, Jr., of Charlestown, dated June 8th, 1741, is in old tenor. . . . .	16	00	0
“ By nine shillings, new tenor, short in ten bonds, given to discharge a mortgage deed of John Tift, of Charlestown, dated June 8th, 1741, is in old tenor. . . . .	18	00	0
“ By balance in the hands of Benjamin Nichols, Esq. . . . .	376,820	08	7
	£397,622 10 4		

“ We, the subscribers, being, by the General Assembly, appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of Benjamin Nichols, Esq., treasurer of the grand committee, and to receive and burn the tenth money in his hands, report :

That we have examined the accounts of the aforesaid Benjamin Nichols, Esq., a statement of which, we herewith present, and whereby it appears, that there is a balance in the hands of the said Benjamin Nichols, Esq., of the sum of £376,820 8s. 7d., in favor of the colony, exclusive of the last bank, which is not charged in this account, as the said Nichols informs us that there are a considerable number of mortgages and bonds belonging to it, which have not been delivered into his office.

We also report, that we have burnt the money paid us by said Nichols, except £792 1s. 1d., in the hands of John Tillinghast; £508 18s. 4d., in the hands of Thomas Cranston; £267 18s. 8d., in the hands of James Sheffield; and £80 4s. 8d., in the hands of Peter Bours, all calculated in old tenor; which being bills of the last emission, are deposited with them, to exchange for old bills of credit, to burn, and for which they have lodged their receipts, with the said Benjamin Nichols,

Esq.

JOHN TILLINGHAST,

PETER BOURS,

THOMAS CRANSTON,

JAMES SHEFFIELD.

Newport, October 29th, 1753.”

And this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration, and duly examined it,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

Whereas, Moses Lopez, of Newport, in the county of Newport, merchant, represented unto this Assembly, that the manufacturing of potash, in this colony, will be of great advantage to the government, provided, it can be done in a right manner; that it will prove a good remittance to Great Britain in return for such goods as we have occasion of, from thence, and will be the means of lowering the price of silver, gold and European goods; and by sending to our mother country a commodity which is very much wanted there, will be serving them in a high degree, and thereby procure their favor, with



many other advantages ; that he, the said Moses, by the assistance of a particular friend, that is not in this country, hath made himself master of the true art and mystery of making potash, which is known to very few in the kingdom ; that he can carry it on to the great advantage of the colony, and at the same time make a reasonable profit to himself ; and upon the whole, prayed this Assembly to grant him a patent for the manufacturing of potash in this colony for the term of ten years, and prohibit all other persons whatsoever from setting up and carrying on that trade and business in this colony, excepting such as shall work under him, and by his direction ; and also to prohibit the carrying any ashes out of this colony into the neighboring governments, on any pretence, whatsoever, upon such penalties as this Assembly shall think proper ; one half to the informer, and the other half to the treasury of the town where the offence shall be committed.

And as the said Moses Lopez will have occasion of all the ashes made in the colony more than the inhabitants will be obliged to keep for their own use, he shall be willing to pay them a reasonable price therefor ; and this Assembly having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote, resolve and enact, and it is voted, resolved and enacted that the prayer of the said Moses be, and the same is hereby granted ; provided, he shall carry on the business, aforesaid ; and that £5 be the penalty for every bushel of ashes that shall be transported into the neighboring governments, or any other part of the world.

Whereas, John Cogswell and Owen Sullivant, alias John Pierson, are suspected of being concerned in counterfeiting the bills of public credit, of the last emission, made by this colony, and each of them hath made his escape out of the government, by breaking jail,—

This Assembly therefore do vote and resolve, and it is hereby voted and resolved, that the sum of £400 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to any person or persons that shall apprehend and convey to His Majesty's jail in Newport, the said John Cogswell, and the same sum shall be allowed and

paid out of the general treasury, for apprehending the said Owen Sullivant, alias John Pierson, and commit them to His Majesty's jail, in Newport.

Both houses resolved into a grand committee, on the 2d day of November, when the Hon. Joseph Whipple, Esq., resigned the office of Deputy Governor ; and thereupon, the Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Esq., was chosen Deputy Governor, in his room, for the remaining part of the year, and engaged accordingly.

Nicholas Easton, Esq., was chosen and engaged second assistant, in the room of the Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Esq., advanced as above.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Daniel Smith, be, and he is hereby fully empowered, to grant forth warrants for collecting the rates ordered to be levied in the county of Providence, for erecting a work house in said county.

Whereas, Jabez Bowen, Esq. and Mr. Elisha Brown, exhibited to this Assembly, an account by them charged against the government, for their time and sundry expenses, and disbursements, in repairing Pawtucket Bridge ; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said account be, and it is hereby allowed ; and that £653 6s. 2d., the balance thereof, be paid the said Jabez Bowen and Elisha Brown, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Francis Willett, Esq., one of the committee appointed to run the line between South Kingstown and Exeter, declines serving in that office,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Thomas Phillips, of North Kingstown, Esq., be, and he is hereby appointed in the room of Mr. Willett, for the purpose, aforesaid ; and that the said committee, or the major part of them, perform said business.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1753, are printed at length in the volume of Public Laws, published in the year 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

- An Act for regulating ferries. (February.)  
 An Act for establishing a work house in the county of Providence. (February.)  
 An Act for the more regular disposing of the fines of delinquent jurors, for their non-appearance at the several courts in this colony. (February.)  
 An Act for repealing one clause of an act, entitled "An act to prevent unlawful gaming," made in the twenty-third year of His present Majesty's reign. (May.)  
 An Act for the more easily recovering of small debts; and for preventing unnecessary charges in law suits in this colony. (June.)  
 An Act for the relief of Charles Ninegret, sachem, an infant. (June.)  
 An Act for setting up a lottery to raise a sum of money in order to complete the court house in the county of Kent, around the prison yard; and for repairing the bridge in Scituate, and that called Hunt's Bridge. (June.)  
 An Act empowering overseers of the poor to bind out idle or indigent persons; as also obliging the overseers to serve when chosen to office. (August.)  
 An Act for naturalizing Peter Mirail, of Newport. (August.)  
 An Act for the relief of Joseph Whipple, of Newport. (August.)  
 An Act for reviving the superior court of judicature, in Kings county. (October.)  
 An Act for explanation, and in addition to the act for regulating of fences. (October.)  
 An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act directing proceedings in actions and suits, wherein either the recorder or sheriff are parties." (October.)

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Monday of February, 1754.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

With the assistants and deputies from the several towns.

Whereas, Stephen Hopkins and Daniel Jenckes, Esqs, Capt. John Cole, together with Messrs. Ephraim Bowen and Nicholas Brown, by petition, represented unto this Assembly that a number of persons in Providence, with some in neighboring towns, being desirous as far as in them lieth, to promote useful knowledge, have, for that end, made a voluntary subscription,

and thereby have raised and sent to England, a sum of money sufficient to purchase books to furnish a small library; but though they have with difficulty proceeded thus far, yet find themselves unable to raise money for building a proper place to keep the books in when they arrive, and as the council chambers in the court house, in Providence, is not put to any use except when the General Assembly sit there; and should this Assembly give the petitioners' leave to put their books therein, yet would there be sufficient room for the General Council to sit comfortably there, and would be so far from being any inconvenience, that on the other hand, it would be a real ornament to the house, and afford an agreeable amusement to the members in their leisure hours; whereupon, the petitioners, in behalf of themselves and all others concerned in the affair, humbly prayed this Assembly to give them leave, at their own proper cost, to erect shelves on the west and north sides of the said council chamber for the purpose, aforesaid; and also, to enable the proprietors of the said books to make such acts and orders as may be fit and necessary for the proper regulating said library; and that they may be good and valid for those ends;—

And this Assembly, having taken the matters and things aforesaid, into consideration,—

Do vote, resolve and enact, and it is voted, resolved and enacted, that the prayer of the petitioners be, and the same is hereby granted.

Whereas, information hath been made to this Assembly, by Mr. Gideon Freeborn, one of their members, that Gideon Wanton, Esq., hath very grossly abused the General Assembly of this colony,—

This Assembly do therefore vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that a precept be issued by the secretary to the sheriff of the county of Newport, to apprehend the said Gideon Wanton, and bring him before the General Assembly, at their next session, the first Wednesday of May next, to answer for the abuse by him given, as aforesaid, and to do what shall then and there be enjoined him.

Whereas, James Rogers, of Newport, shop-keeper, represented unto this Assembly, that the making pearlshes within the government, will be very advantageous to the colony, upon several accounts ; but as it will be attended with considerable cost and trouble to the undertakers, and as the General Assembly have lately granted a patent to Mr. Lopez, for the sole making of potashes, he prayed that an act may be passed enabling him to make pearlshes among us, for the term of ten years ; and that no other person presume so to do, under such penalties, &c. ;—

And this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and enact, and it is hereby voted and enacted, that the said James Rogers shall have, and hereby is granted him the sole liberty of making pearlshes within the colony, for the space of ten years ; and that no other person or persons besides the said James Rogers, presume so to do ; nevertheless, no penalty shall be incurred by any who shall hereafter presume to make pearlshes within this government.

God save the King.

*Secretary Holderness to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 28th June, 1753.

Gentlemen :—I am to acquaint you, that it is the King's pleasure, that the arms and military stores, which were made use of, upon the intended expedition against Canada, and which were returned by His Majesty's order, when the troops were dismissed that service, and are now lying at Rhode Island, under your care, should be forthwith transmitted to Governor Shirley, at Massachusetts Bay, to be ready for such services as His Majesty shall hereafter be pleased to direct.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

HOLDERNESSE.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, January 13, 1754.

Sir :—Some weeks ago, I had the honor of a letter from the Earl of Holderness, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, directing me to send a quantity of muskets out of those which had been saved out of the late intended expedition

against Canada, to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, for His Majesty's service there; and signifying to me, that he had written to the Governors of New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island, directing them to transmit to me what arms and military stores had been saved out of their aforesaid expedition, within their respective governments, to be lodged in Castle William, for His Majesty's further orders.

As I cannot collect the quantity of good, serviceable muskets, which I am directed to send to Halifax, within this Province, out of those which were saved out of that expedition, I desire Your Honor would be pleased to let me know by the first post, whether I am to expect any muskets from your government, according to the Earl of Holderness's orders.

I am, with great regard, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Governor Greene.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1754.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Mr. Nicholas Cooke,  
Mr. Jabez Bowen,  
Mr. Stephen Brownell,

Mr. Robert Lawton,  
Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt,  
Mr. William Richmond,  
Mr. Daniel Coggeshall,  
Mr. Jeffrey Watson.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Edward Scott,  
 Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
 Mr. Peter Bours,  
 Capt. Job Bennett, Jr.  
 Mr. James Sheffield,  
 Mr. William Read.

*Providence.*

Mr. Jonathan Randall,  
 Mr. Daniel Jenckes,  
 Mr. Thomas Olney,  
 Mr. John Potter, Jr.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
 Mr. John Allen,  
 Mr. Thomas Brownell,  
 Mr. Gideon Freeborn, Jr.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,  
 Capt. Randall Rice,  
 Major John Rhodes,  
 Mr. Benjamin Arnold.

*Westerly.*

Major Joshua Clarke,  
 Capt. Benjamin Randall.

*New Shoreham.*

Capt. Robert Hull,  
 Mr. Nathaniel Littlefield.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. Henry Wall,  
 Mr. Beriah Brown.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. Henry Gardner,  
 Mr. Rowland Robinson.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. William Spencer,  
 Maj. John Arnold.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Josiah Arnold, Jr.  
 Mr. William Martin.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Arnold,  
 Mr. Jonathan Arnold.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
 Capt. Amos Hammond.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere,  
 Col. Richard Smith,

*Charlestown.*

Col. Christopher Champlin,  
 Mr. Robert Potter.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Joseph Nichols,  
 Mr. Preserved Hall.

*Coventry.*

Mr. John Greene,  
 Capt. John Ellerton.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Reynolds,  
 Mr. Nicholas Gardner.

*Middletown.*

Capt. John Barker,  
 Mr. Thomas Gould.

*Bristol.*

Capt. Joseph Russell,  
 Major Thomas Greene.

## DEPUTIES.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Samuel Durfey,  
Mr. Thomas Howland.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. Nathaniel Searle,  
Mr. Joseph Wood.

*Warren.*

Mr. James Brown,  
Capt. Benjamin Barton.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
Mr. Jeremiah Whipple.

*Richmond.*

Mr. Samuel Tift,  
Mr. William Potter.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Whereas, the sheriff of the county of Newport, was ordered by the General Assembly, at their session in February last; to bring Gideon Wanton, Esq., before this Assembly, at their present session, to answer for his abuses to said General Assembly, but upon the information of the sheriff, that the said Gideon Wanton is absent, so that he cannot attend this session,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Gideon Wanton be continued in the custody of said sheriff, and be by him brought before this Assembly, at their next session, to answer for the aforesaid abuses.

God save the King.

*Governor DeLancey, of New York, to Governor Greene.*

New York, 22d April, 1754.

Sir:—In my opening speech of this session, I declared my apprehension, that unless the colonies unite in measures for building forts in the Indian country for their security, and the safety of the women and children, when the men are abroad, and for sending smiths and other proper persons to reside among them, we shall lose the little influence we still have over them; and that though it was reasonable the expense should be borne by the colonies in general, yet it might be expected a scheme for that purpose should take its rise here.

I also recommended to the Assembly, that they would enable me to build a fort



or forts on the northern parts of this Province, until I had used my endeavors to bring the neighboring governments to join in the expense of erecting as many forts as might be necessary to guard them and us from the incursions of the enemy in that quarter; upon which they came to the enclosed resolution; and is, I doubt not, your agreeing in opinion, that the building forts in the Indian country, is an essential step towards securing them and their allies in His Majesty's interest, in which all the colonies are much concerned; and that the erecting other forts on the northern quarter, towards the French, is a necessary measure for our common security, you will, I am persuaded, use your Assembly to join in this necessary expense.

We cannot have a more favorable opportunity to concert a scheme for this purpose, than at the Albany treaty, where I hope to see commissioners from your government, instructed on these heads.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

JAMES DE LANCEY.

To His Excellency, William Greene, Governor of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday of June, 1754.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do yote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Jabez Bowen, Esq., Mr. Thomas Howland and Col. Christopher Champlin, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee to view the place appointed to build the light-house on Beaver Tail, and consider how much land is necessary for that purpose; and in what manner the same should be set off, and make report to this Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be.

An Act appointing commissioners on the behalf of this government, to meet the commissioners of the other governments in America, on the 14th instant, at Albany, &c.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that two persons be appointed by the General Assembly, and commissioned by His

Honor, the Governor, to meet the commissioners that may be appointed by the other governments, aforesaid, to meet at Albany, on the 14th day of this instant June; and that they be empowered, in said commission, to treat with the other commissioners in the best manner they can, to take such measures as will be most effectual to secure and maintain a lasting friendship with the Six Nations of Indians.

And that they be further directed and empowered, in said commission, to draw on the general treasurer of this colony, for such a sum of money as they shall think may be a sufficient sum for this colony, by way of presents to the chiefs of the Six Nations, not to exceed £100.

And that they be further empowered to inquire into what forts are built and building within the limits of His Majesty's dominions, in America; by whom their strength and situations.

And that they be further directed in said commission, to let the commissioners on behalf of the other governments know, that this government is willing and ready to do any thing necessary on their part, so far as they are able, to support and defend the Six Nations of Indians from any insults offered to them by the French, or any of the nations of Indians in that part of America.

And that Edward Scott and Peter Bours, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to draw £600, old tenor, out of the general treasury, and deliver the same to the commissioners, in order to defray their expenses at the congress; and in case there should not be £600 in the treasury, then the general treasurer is hereby empowered to hire the same on account, and in behalf of the colony.

*From the Governor of New York to Governor Greene.*

New York, 19th March, 1754.

Sir:—By a letter from the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, directed to His late Excellency, Sir Danvers Osborn, which came to my hands since his death, their lordships observing the present wavering disposition of the Indians, think a general interview by commissioners from the several governments, with the

Six Nations of Indians, at this time, necessary, in order to wipe away any ill impressions that may have been made on them, by the common enemy.\*

As this measure is of evident utility, and it cannot but have a good effect upon the Indians, to know the strength of the British settlements, and to see that they are acting in concert.

I shall not need to press you with any arguments to bear your part at this interview, by sending commissioners, to meet at Albany, on the 14th of June next, the time appointed for that purpose; I hope to have the pleasure of seeing commissioners from your government at that time.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,  
To the Governor of Rhode Island. JAMES DE LANCEY.

This Assembly do choose and appoint Stephen Hopkins, Esq., first, and His Honor, the Deputy Governor, to be the other commissioner, to go to Albany, on the part of this colony; the latter of whom refusing, Capt. Benjamin Wickham was chosen in his room; who also refusing, Martin Howard, Jr., of Newport, in the county of Newport, gentleman, was chosen in his stead.

Whereas, a great number of the free inhabitants of Providence, represented unto this Assembly, that said town is very large, and well peopled, having about six hundred free holders therein; that all their quarter meetings are held in the com-

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\* [Sir D'Anvers Osborne, was a brother-in-law of the Earl of Halifax, and succeeded Clinton, as Governor of New York. He arrived on the 6th of October, 1753, and was received in New York, with the usual demonstrations of respect.

"During the voyage across the Atlantic," says Bancroft, "the agitated mind of Osborne, already reeling with private grief, brooded despondingly over the task he had assumed. On the 10th of October, he took the oaths of office, at New York; and the people who welcomed him with acclamations, hooted his predecessor. 'I expect the like treatment,' said he to Clinton, 'before I leave the government.' On the same day, he was startled with an address, from the city council, who declared they would not 'brook any infringement of their inestimable liberties, civil and religious.' On the next, he communicated to the council his instructions, which required the Assembly 'to recede from all encroachments on the [royal] prerogatives, and to consider, without delay, of a proper law for a permanent revenue, solid, definite and without limitation,' etc. With a distressed countenance and plaintive voice, he asked if these instructions would be obeyed. All agreed, that the Assembly would never comply. He sighed, turned about, reclined against the window-frame, and exclaimed, 'Then why am I come here?'

Being of morbid sensitiveness, honest, and scrupulous of his word, the unhappy man spent the night in arranging his private affairs, and towards morning, hanged himself against the fence in the garden."—*Hist. U. S., Vol. IV., p. 103.*—J. R. B.]

pact part of the town, whither many of them are obliged to travel, some eight, nine, and others ten miles; and that at some seasons of the year, travelling is difficult, &c.; whereupon, they prayed said town might be divided in the manner and form by them set down and described in their petition; on consideration whereof;—

This Assembly do grant the said petition; and appoint Daniel Jenckes and Thomas Arnold, Esqs., and Mr. John Potter, Jr., a committee, to draw an act for that purpose.

The gentlemen appointed to receive the stores, &c., at Fort George, of Capt. William Mumford, late commander of said fort, and deliver them to James Sheffield, Esq., now captain there, presented this Assembly with the following report, &c., viz. :

*Report of the Committee appointed to receive the stores from Fort George.*

“We, the subscribers, being by the General Assembly, appointed a committee to receive of Capt. William Mumford all the stores at Fort George, and to deliver them to Capt. James Sheffield, do report :

We have, (in the presence of Capt. William Mumford) delivered to Capt. James Sheffield, as per his receipt, all the stores, agreeably to the list hereto annexed :

Within the battery, viz. : twenty-four cannon and twenty-four carriages, chiefly broken; eight hundred and sixty-eight cannon shot.

Within the fort walls, viz. : twelve cannon and twelve carriages; forty-three handpikes; one speaking trumpet; thirteen worms; five spare wheels; thirty-one sponge staffs; one flag; one grind stone; one iron crow; two wheel barrows; eight hundred and forty-three cannon shot; eight iron pots; one wood axe; one frying pan; two pick axes; seventy-one four shot; eight ladles; twenty-eight pistols; seventeen small arms; twenty-five lynch-stocks; one old drum; nine cartridge boxes; nine powder horns; eighteen cartouch boxes; four half barrels of grenade shells; one cask of pistol cartridges; five formers; four cutlasses; a small parcel of pistol ball; one perspective glass.

In the state room, eleven chairs and one table.

Outside of the fort, one triangle gin; one rowing boat, at the wharf.

JOHN TILLINGHAST,  
THOMAS CRANSTON.

Newport, dated June 10, 1754.”

[A committee was afterwards appointed annually, to receive and transfer the stores at Fort George; this receipt is printed to show the extent of the arms and stores at the fort. Similar reports appear yearly, on the records.—J. R. B.]

"Fort George, in Newport: received of the abovesaid committee, into my care, all the stores, agreeably to the above list.

Witness my hand, this 10th day of June, A. D. 1754.

JAMES SHEFFIELD."

To which report, the committee add the following account, to wit:

	" Colony of Rhode Island,      Dr.
1754, June 10. To our time, &c. ....	£6 00 0
	JOHN TILLINGHAST, THOMAS CRANSTON."

And now, this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the foregoing report be, and the same is hereby accepted; and that £6, the amount of the committee's account, be allowed, and paid them, out of the general treasury.

An Act for dividing the town of Providence, and incorporating the southern part thereof, into a township, to be distinguished and known by the name of Cranston.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of this colony, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that all the lands in the town of Providence, lying to the southward of a line beginning at the head of the cove, called and known by the name of Hawkins's Cove; from thence, a straight line, to the bent of Pochasset River, a little to the northward of Charles Dyer's; and so to continue up said river, until it comes to the road that leads from the town of Providence to Plainfield; and thence, westerly, up said road, until it comes to the Seven Mile line, that is the dividing line between the town of Providence and Scituate; then southerly, with said Seven Mile line, until it comes to the south-west corner of the township of Providence, where Providence and Scituate join in Warwick's north line; thence easterly, on the dividing line between Providence and Warwick, until it meets the salt water or river, that leads up to Providence town; then, bound-

ing on the salt water or river, as the same extends itself up stream, towards Providence town, until it comes to the afore mentioned bound, at Hawkins's Cove.

And it is further enacted, that all the lands to the northward of the afore mentioned line, from Hawkins's Cove, to the bent at Charles Dyers's, and so up the river, to where Plainfield road crosses said river; and all the lands to the northward of said Plainfield road, until it meet the aforesaid Seven Mile line, and shall be, and remain to the town of Providence; and all the lands to the southward of the last mentioned lines, to be distinguished and known by the name of Cranston; and that the inhabitants of said Cranston, from time to time, have and enjoy the like benefits, liberties, privileges and immunities, with other towns in this colony, according to charter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the justices of the peace living within the aforesaid town of Cranston, shall remain and continue in their aforesaid offices until the next general election; and that the first of the said justices of the peace, grant forth his warrant to call the inhabitants of said Cranston together, on Tuesday, the 25th day of this instant June, at some convenient place in said town of Cranston, to elect and appoint such town officers as they shall have occasion for, and the law directs; and to appoint the times and places of their town meeting, and to choose and elect two deputies to represent them at the October session, and so on, as by the charter is directed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that said town of Cranston shall send two grand and two petit jurors to every superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery; and two grand and two petit jurors to every inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, held within the county of Providence.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from henceforward, the town of Providence shall keep in repair the one half of the aforementioned highway or road, called Plainfield Road, from the place where the aforesaid Pochasset crosses the same, as aforesaid, until it comes to the aforemen-

tioned dividing line of Scituate and Providence; and that the town of Cranston keep in repair the other half; and that the town of Providence begin at the aforementioned river where it crosses said road; and so measure one half of the distance from said river, up said road, which half, Providence shall keep and maintain in repair; and the western half, the town of Cranston shall keep and maintain in repair, for the future.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the debts which are now due from the town of Providence (such as town debts), shall be first paid out of the interest money arising from the interest of the loan money taken by the inhabitants of the town of Providence, out of the several banks; and that after the aforesaid town debts are paid, that then the interest of the aforesaid loan money, shall go to the respective town where the lands are mortgaged; but in case there be not interest money enough to discharge the now debts of the town of Providence, that then the inhabitants of the town of Cranston shall raise and pay their equal lot, by levying a rate on the inhabitants of said town of Cranston; and that the debts which are now due from the town of Providence, shall be settled and paid in proportion as the last town rate was levied on the inhabitants.

And be it further enacted, that the poor persons who are now a town charge to the town of Providence, shall be equally divided between the towns of Providence and Cranston, according to the levy of the aforesaid rate.

And that Daniel Jenckes, Jonathan Randall and Philip Greene, Esqs., or the major part of them, be a committee to draw the aforesaid line, from Hawkins's Cove to the bent of Pochasset River, aforesaid; and also to settle and adjust the debts now due from the town of Providence, and order what part of Cranston shall pay of the same, and what part of the poor persons of the towns of Providence and Cranston shall take, as their part; and the report of said committee, or any two of them, to be final, when made to this General Assembly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and re-

solved, that William Burton, Esq., shall be deemed, and taken to be, and act as the first justice in Cranston.

Whereas, Gideon Wanton, Esq., on the 14th day of this instant June, was brought before this Assembly, in consequence of a warrant issued against him, upon the information and complaint of Mr. Gideon Freeborne, one of the members of this Assembly, who, upon his engagement, declared, that said Gideon Wanton had very grossly abused the General Assembly of this colony;—

Whereupon, this Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Gideon Wanton recognize himself to the King's Majesty, in the sum of £3,000, for his personal appearance at the next superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, to be held at Newport, within and for the county of Newport, on the last Tuesday of August next, to answer unto such things as shall then and there be objected against him, respecting the premises; and to do and abide what shall be enjoined him by said court; and to be of good behaviour in the mean time; and that he remain in custody till he recognize as aforesaid.

The gentlemen that were appointed a committee to view the place designed to build a light-house upon Beaver Tail, presented this Assembly with the following report, viz. :

*Report of Committee on Light House, at Beaver Tail.*

“Newport, June 12, 1754.

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee by the General Assembly, to view and make return to this Assembly, what quantity of land is necessary for the government to purchase, adjoining to the light house, on Beaver Tail, which is ordered by the government to be built, do adjudge that two acres will be necessary; that is, to begin at the Point, and to extend so far northward, as to make up said two acres, including all the land, beach and upland, across said Neck, from high water mark; and do also give it as our opinion, that there ought to be a way left on the east side of said land, to



extend from the north part of said land, down to the Point, between where the light house is intended to be built, and the dwelling house, for all people to pass and re-pass; as witness our hands, the day and year above written.

JABEZ BOWEN,  
CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN,  
THOMAS HOWLAND,  
Committee."

And now, this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and is hereby accepted; and that Messrs. James Sheffield and William Read, be, and they are hereby appointed and fully empowered, on behalf of the colony, to agree for the above mentioned land, with the owners thereof, and make report to this Assembly, at their next session.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the judges of the several courts in this colony, in making up judgments where the paper currency of this colony is sued for, shall make no allowance for depreciation.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the third Monday of August, 1754.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £25,000 be raised, by a tax, to be forthwith assessed and levied on the estates and polls of the inhabitants of this colony; and that the same be applied t

sink the colony's outstanding bills of public credit, and to supply the treasury ; and that a committee of both houses be appointed to prepare a bill, and proportion the same.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £5,000 be raised by a tax, to be forthwith assessed and levied on the estates and polls of the inhabitants of this colony ; and that the same be applied to the repair of Fort George.

Whereas, the duties laid on shipping have been found insufficient to defray the charge of lights, at Beaver Tail, since the light house was burnt there ;—

This Assembly therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that six pence per ton be added to every ton of the shipping which pays by the ton ; and that five shillings be added to the ten shillings which every coaster is by law now obliged to pay ; and that the additions of the duties hereby made, continue and remain until the 1st day of March next.

Whereas, the commissioners, that on the part of this colony attended the late congress at Albany, in the Province of New York, presented the following report,—

*Report of the Rhode Island Commissioners at Albany.*

“ To the Honorable the General Assembly of His Majesty's colony of Rhode Island, now sitting :

We, the subscribers, being, by a vote of said Assembly, at their session in June last, appointed commissioners, to represent this colony, at the then approaching congress, at Albany, did, in consequence thereof, receive from His Honor, the Governor, our commission, with the act of Assembly, relative thereto, and did accordingly set out immediately for Albany, where we arrived in good season.

The friendship and alliance with the Six Nations of Indians, being renewed and confirmed, by a treaty, in which this and all the colonies on the continent, united, we, by virtue of the act aforesaid, made a present to the said Indians, of some necessaries, amounting to £40, York currency ; which, considering the liberality of His Majesty and the other colonies, in that respect, we judged sufficient, and for which we drew a set of bills of exchange on the general treasurer, directing the payment to Col. John Henry Lydius, of Albany, the gentleman who supplied us with that sum.

We herewith present a copy of the proceedings at the said congress,\* in which

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\* The journal of the convention is preserved among the documents in the secretary's office.—J. R. B.

is contained a representation of the state of the English colonies on this continent, chiefly with relation to the French and Indians, drawn up and approved by the board of commissioners at said congress ; and also, a plan of a proposed union of all the said colonies, which, from the facts set forth in the said representation, was judged absolutely necessary to be speedily effected ; it was therefore a resolution of said board that the respective commissioners should lay the same before the General Assemblies of the colonies they severally represented, which for our parts, we accordingly now do, and submit the same, with this our report, to the consideration of this Honorable Assembly.

STEPHEN HOPKINS,  
MARTIN HOWARD, JR.

Newport, August 20th, 1754."

And now this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the foregoing report be, and the same is hereby accepted ; this Assembly nevertheless, reserving to themselves a farther consideration, whether they will accede to the general plan proposed.

Whereas, Messrs. Daniel Jenckes and Thomas Howland, represented unto this Assembly, that they, with sundry other merchants, were concerned in two vessels, that were taken by a Spanish privateer, after the cessation of arms between our sovereign and the king of Spain, and carried into the island of Hispaniola, and from thence to St. Jago de Cuba ; and that they had been at considerable expense in sending Col. William Hopkins, to inquire after the same, but have not hitherto been able to obtain a satisfactory account from that gentleman ; whereupon, they prayed, that an act may be passed, empowering His Honor, the Governor, to grant a commission for a vessel to be fitted out at their own proper cost and charge, and sent to Leogan, on the said island of Hispaniola, and from thence, to the aforesaid port of St. Jago de Cuba, in order to recover their own, with the interest of the other parties concerned ;—

And now this Assembly, having duly inquired into, and maturely considered the subject matters of this petition, aforesaid,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the prayer thereof, be, and the same is hereby granted ; and His

Honor, the Governor, is desired to make and issue a commission accordingly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby directed and fully empowered to hire upon the colony's account, the sum of £4,000, for defraying the charge of building the light house.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Daniel Updike, James Honeyman, Esqs., and Mr. Augustus Johnston, or the major part of them, have, and take the bill for the relief of insolvent debtors, now lying before this Assembly, and make such amendments and alterations as they shall think fit; that then the same be put in print, and a copy sent to each town clerk in the colony, for the perusal of all persons that shall incline to it; and one copy also to each of the members of this Assembly; and that the whole be done, performed and effected at the charge of the colony.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the assessors or rate-makers of each town in the colony, take an account of the ratable estates in their respective towns, and make return according to law, unto the General Assembly, at their next session; and that a copy of this vote be sent by the secretary, immediately to each town clerk in the colony, to be by him delivered to the assessors or rate-makers of his town; and that every assessor or rate-maker who shall refuse or neglect to do his duty, shall be subject to the same fines and penalties as are mentioned in an act by the General Assembly, made and passed at their session, held in Newport, on the second Tuesday of June, 1747, entitled, "An act directing how the value of ratable estates in this colony shall be known, and each town's proportion thereof."

Whereas, Jonathan Nichols, of Newport, in the colony, aforesaid, Esq., represented unto this Assembly, that having some years ago, negotiated at said Newport, with one Lawrence Cholette, of Cape Francois, in the island of Hispaniola, merchant, he trusted him to the amount of £12,000 or £13,000, old tenor, after which the said Cholette, in a very unjust man-

ner absconded, and never satisfied or paid the money due, and is gone to Cape Francois, aforesaid, the usual place of his residence, whither the said Jonathan is about to send a suitable person and vessel, in order to prosecute his demands against the said Lawrence Cholette, which may be attended with difficulty, unless some protection be granted by the colony; and thereupon prayed that a commission may be granted to such person as he shall employ for prosecuting the said Lawrence Cholette, and recovering his just right; and this Assembly having duly weighed the subject matter of the petition aforesaid,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the prayer thereof be, and the same is hereby accepted.

God save the King.

*T. Robinson to Governor Shirley.*

Whitehall, 21st June, 1754.

Sir:—Having received your despatches of the 19th of April and 1st of May last, with their several enclosures, and having laid the same before the King, I am to acquaint you, that His Majesty extremely approves the resolution which has been taken by the Assembly of your Province, in consequence of the proposal recommended by you, to use their best endeavors to drive the French from the river Kennebec.

And I am at the same time to inform you, that His Majesty is graciously pleased to authorize and direct you to proceed upon the plan, and to pursue the measures which appear, by your speeches to the Assembly, and their answer thereto, to have been so well calculated for that purpose.

I am likewise to assure you, as a mark of His Majesty's particular attention to the welfare of his loyal subjects in New England, that every thing recommended by the said Assembly, will be fully considered; and that immediate directions will be given for promoting the plan of a general concert between His Majesty's colonies, in order to prevent or remove any encroachments upon the dominions of the crown of Great Britain.

It is with the greatest pleasure, that I take this early opportunity of giving you the satisfaction to know the very favorable manner in which the account of your prudent and vigorous conduct, as well of the zeal and activity of those under your government, have been received by the King, which cannot fail to excite and encourage them in taking such further steps as will most effectually provide for their own security, and will give a proper example to His Majesty's neighboring colonies.

I am, &c.,

T. ROBINSON.

To Governor Shirley.

*Secretary Holdernesse to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 28th August, 1753.

Gentlemen :—His Majesty having received information of the march of a considerable number of Indians, not in alliance with the King, supported by some regular European troops, intending, as it is apprehended, to commit some hostilities on parts of His Majesty's dominions, in America.

I have the King's commands to send you this intelligence, and to direct you to use your utmost diligence, to learn how far the same may be well grounded, and to put you upon your guard, that you may, at all events, be in a condition to resist any hostile attempts that may be made upon any parts of His Majesty's dominions within your government; and to direct you, in the King's name, that in case the subjects of any foreign prince, or state, should presume to make any encroachment on the limits of His Majesty's dominions, or to erect forts on His Majesty's lands, or commit any other act of hostilities you are immediately to represent the injustice of such proceeding, and to require them, forthwith, to desist from any such unlawful undertaking.

But if, notwithstanding your requisition, they should still persist, you are then to draw forth the armed force of the Province, and to use your best endeavors to repel force by force.

But, as it is His Majesty's determination not to be the aggressor, I have the King's commands most strictly to enjoin you not to make use of the armed force under your direction, excepting within the undoubted limits of His Majesty's dominions.

And whereas, it may be greatly conducive to His Majesty's service, that all his provinces in America, should be aiding and assisting each other, in case of any invasion, I have it particularly in charge from His Majesty, to acquaint you, that it is his royal will and pleasure, that you should keep up an exact correspondence with all His Majesty's governors in the continent; and, in case you shall be informed by any of them, of any hostile attempts, you are immediately to assemble the General Assembly within your government, and lay before them the necessity of a mutual assistance, and engage them to grant such supplies as the exigency of affairs may require.

I have written by this conveyance to all His Majesty's governors, to the same purpose.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,  
HOLDERNESSE.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*T. Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 5th July, 1754.

Gentlemen :—Although you have neglected to give any answer to the Earl of Holdernesse's letter, of the 28th of August last, yet as I cannot doubt your receipt of that letter, wherein the King's orders were signified to you, not only to act vig-

orously in defence of your government, but to be likewise aiding and assisting His Majesty's other colonies in America, to repel any hostile attempts made against them.

I am now, by the King's express command, to enforce to you, the said directions, in the strongest manner; and to acquaint you, that His Majesty expects your immediate observance of them.

You will see, by the enclosed copy of my letter to Governor Shirley, in what manner His Majesty's subjects have behaved at Massachusetts Bay, and that their conduct has been entirely approved by the King.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1754.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

An Act for assessing and levying a tax of £35,000.

Whereas, this colony is indebted in a large sum of money, emitted by acts of Assembly, in bills of public credit, for supplying the treasury; and the time for calling in said bills being near expiring; and whereas, Fort George is in a bad condition, and wants some necessary repairs; for the accomplishing of which good ends in part, the last Assembly voted a tax of £25,000 to be assessed, levied and applied towards sinking the colony's outstanding bills of public credit; and a tax of £5,000, to be applied to repair Fort George; but as the said Assembly did not apportion the said taxes on the several towns of the colony, and as the sum voted for repairing the fort, is not sufficient for that purpose,—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that there be £35,000, old tenor, raised by a tax, to be forthwith assessed and levied,





a true bill or list thereof, to the town clerk of the town to which they respectively belong, within fifty days after the rising of this Assembly ; and the town clerk shall send a copy thereof to the general treasurer in ten days ; who, upon receipt thereof, shall issue forth his warrants in ten days to the several collectors of rates, of the respective towns, commanding them in His Majesty's name, to collect the several sums to them severally committed, in bills of public credit of this colony, within six months' time after the rising of this Assembly ; and to pay two-seventh parts of said sums to him, or his successor in said office, and the remainder to the treasurer of the grand committee's office, to be burnt, and discharge part of the colony's debt.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each respective town shall pay all the charges and fees that shall arise in assessing and collecting their respective part of the aforesaid tax.

And be it further enacted, that the secretary send a copy of this act in print, to each town clerk in this colony, within twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, to be by them immediately delivered to the assessors of each respective town.

“ We, the subscribers, dissent from the above proportion of the above rate, by reason that the town of Portsmouth is over-proportioned, with the towns of Middletown and Tiverton.

WM. ANTHONY, JR.,

THOS. BROWNELL,

WM. EARL,

JOHN ALLEN.”

“ I, the subscriber, do dissent from the above proportion of the above rate, by reason of the town of South Kingstown is over-proportioned in proportion to the other towns in the county of Kings county ; as I am knowing to the value of the estates in the other towns in the county.

ROWLAND ROBINSON”

“We, the subscribers, dissent from this proportion to the town of Jamestown, it being too high. Number of acres four thousand eight hundred, in said town.

JOSIAH ARNOLD, JR.,  
WM. MARTIN.”

Whereas, the inhabitants of the compact part of the town of Providence, represented unto this Assembly, that they conceive that there is a great necessity to have a water engine of a large size, purchased, to extinguish fires, that may casually break out in said town; and that the best way to obtain one, will be by laying a tax on the houses, goods and other things, to be destroyed by fire; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that Obadiah Brown and James Angel, Esqs., be, and they are hereby empowered to rate the housing and all other things within the compact part of the said town of Providence, which are liable to be destroyed by fire, a sum of money sufficient to purchase an engine as is above described; and that the said rate be levied so soon as may be, and the money thereby raised, immediately put into the hands of the said Obadiah Brown and James Angel, for the speedy purchasing said engine.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every house keeper, within the space of three months, be provided with two good leathern buckets, under the penalty of forfeiting the sum of £20; one half to the informer, and the other half, to and for the use of the poor of the said town of Providence.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the money so raised, be, by said Brown and Angel, subject to, and put under the direction of the major part of the voters among the inhabitants of the compact part of the said town of Providence, and appropriated to purchase said engine, in and after such manner as they shall think fit.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Sheffield, Esq., and Mr. William Read, be,

and they are hereby constituted a committee, to repair Fort George, and purchase the materials therefor.

The gentlemen that were appointed to audit the accounts of the committee for building the new jail-house and jail, in Providence, presented this Assembly with the following report, to wit :

*Report of the Committee on the Providence Jail, &c.*

“ We, the subscribers, being a committee to audit the committee’s accounts, who were appointed to build the new jail in Providence, do report as followeth :

	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
There is due to Stephen Hopkins, Esq., for the bills charged against him, for the work done about said jail, and stuff, &c. . . . .	916	2 4
To the balance due to Mr. Elisha Brown, on settlement of his account. . . . .	451	5 4
	£1,367 7 8	

All which, is humbly submitted by your humble servants,  
**JABEZ BOWEN,**  
**DANIEL JENCKES,**  
**NICHOLAS BROWN.**

Providence, November 3d, 1754.”

And now, this Assembly, having taken the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby accepted.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Josiah Arnold, Esq., be requested to attend this Assembly, at their next session, to render a reason, if any he hath, why two acres of land, adjoining to the light house, on Beaver Tail, is not set off for the use of the colony ; and that the secretary send a copy of this vote unto him.

God save the King.

[The following Public Laws, passed during the year 1754, are printed at length in the volume of public laws, published in the year 1767, unless repealed previous to that time.]

An Act for naturalizing Ami Decotay, of Newport, merchant, late a subject of the Republic of Genoa. (February.)

An Act for naturalizing Jacob Lund, of Newport, a native of Norway. (February.)

An Act in addition to an act entitled "An act against adultery, polygamy and unlawfully marrying persons, and for the relief of such persons as are injured by the breaking of marriage contracts." (June.)

An Act empowering the sheriffs to sell and give deeds of land mortgaged and forfeited to the colony. (June.)

An additional Act for preventing the counterfeiting of bills of public credit emitted, or that shall be hereafter emitted by any of the governments in New England, and to prevent defacing the same. (June.)

An Act to incorporate the Fellowship Club, in Newport. (June.)

*Governor Sharpe of Maryland, to Governor Greene.*

Annapolis, Maryland, November 8th, 1754.

Sir:—I take the liberty to acquaint you that His Majesty, hoping his good and loyal American subjects will unanimously exert themselves to repel the encroachments that the French are and have been making on his dominions, in this part of the continent, has been pleased to honor me with a commission to command all the forces that the several colonies may raise for that purpose, and to entreat you to endeavor to procure us such supplies either of men or money, from the Assembly of your Province as the exigency of affairs does at this time demand.

There is no occasion, I persuade myself, for me to insist on, or even hint at the fatal consequences that must attend our conniving at the encroachments that the French have lately made on His Majesty's American dominions, or suffering them to remain masters of the forts which they have built on the frontiers of these provinces; of this, you are extremely sensible, and I will not doubt but your Assembly, when they meet, will show a just regard to your recommendation of the service to their consideration; indeed, without assistance from the several governments on the continent, I despair of answering in the least, His Majesty's expectations and royal intention in honoring me with such a commission, and cannot think of entering on action without such succors as His Majesty, by one of his principal secretaries of state, gives me room to expect from his good subjects in that, as well as those provinces.

Should the gentlemen of your Assembly show a disposition to contribute towards the support of the common cause, and encouragement of His Majesty's service, you will be pleased to signify to me in what manner you judge they will be most inclined to send us assistance, whether by money or troops.

I must beg the favor of you to inform me as soon as possible, what I must expect,

because the vast progress that the enemy made last summer, makes it absolutely necessary for us to act offensively \* \* \* \* \* very early in the spring.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

HOR'O SHARPE.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 1st day of January, 1755.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Jeremiah Lippitt, William Richmond, Daniel Coggeshall, Jeffrey Watson, Joshua Babcock, Job Randall, Daniel Jenckes and Immanuel Northup, Esqs., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee to draw up a scheme for raising a fund of such a body of troops as will effectually answer the King's just expectations from this government, signified in the letter sent hither by the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robinson, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

This Assembly do vote and enact, and it is voted and enacted, that a fund, not exceeding £4,000, old tenor, be taken up on loan, by the general treasurer, at not exceeding ten per cent. interest, for the uses hereinafter mentioned; and that a company of one hundred men (officers included, and to be appointed by this government,) be raised; and that a commissary be appointed to receive said money from the treasurer, to furnish the King's troops on their arrival, with fresh victuals, and whatever else can be reasonably expected from this government, agreeably to His Majesty's pleasure, signified by a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, of the 26th of October last; and that each soldier be paid a bounty of £18, old tenor, on

his enlistment, and be entitled, thenceforward, to the King's pay.

And that a letter be draughted and sent to Governor Shirley, by His Honor, the Governor, or Deputy Governor, containing the substance of the foregoing resolutions of this Assembly; and to acquaint His Excellency, that this government waits for the arrival of His Majesty's blank commissions, to be filled up by the Governor of this colony, with the officers' names of the company above mentioned.

This Assembly having maturely considered the form of a letter to be sent to His Excellency, Governor Shirley, do approve thereof.

*John Gardner, Deputy Governor, to Governor Shirley.*

Providence, January 4th, 1755.

Sir:—Immediately on receipt of the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robinson's letter of the 26th of October last, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island (beyond doubt of the same tenor with what Your Excellency has received), His Honor, Governor Greene, summoned the members of both houses, who met in General Assembly, according to appointment; and notwithstanding Mr. Greene hath, by a bad state of health, been rendered unable to attend and assist with his advice, the Assembly have passed an act to raise a company of one hundred men, including officers, and made suitable provision for all other necessaries, according to the directions of the above mentioned letter.

And this Assembly waits only for the arrival of a set of His Majesty's blank commissions, to be filled by His Honor, the Governor, for the officers of the company so to be raised.

I have the pleasure to assure Your Excellency, that the Assembly are animated with the laudable zeal of doing every thing in the power of the government to answer effectually and comply with His Majesty's instructions, and have therefore adjourned to the first Monday of February next.

This letter comes by an express from him, may it please Your Excellency.

I am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

[JOHN GARDNER, Deputy Governor.]

To Governor Shirley.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the secretary procure the act of Parliament, entitled "An act to regulate and restrain paper bills of credit in His Majesty's colonies or plantations, of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, the Massachusetts Bay

and New Hampshire, in America; and to prevent the same being legal tenders in payment of money;" to be re-printed in this colony, and send one copy thereof to each town clerk in the government, for the use of said town.

God save the King.

*Secretary Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 25th October, 1754.

Gentlemen:—His Majesty having been pleased to appoint James Pitcher, Esq., to be commissary of the musters of all His Majesty's forces, that are, or shall be employed in His Majesty's colonies and provinces in North America, I have His Majesty's orders to direct you, or, in your absence, the Lieutenant Governor, or such other person that shall have the chief care of your government, to be aiding and assisting to the said James Pitcher, Esq., in the execution of this duty.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, October 26, 1754.

Gentlemen:—Having informed you, in my letter of July 5th, that the King had under his royal consideration, the state of affairs in North America. I am now to acquaint you, that, amongst other measures, that are thought proper for the defence of His Majesty's just rights and dominions in those parts, the King has not only been pleased to order two regiments of foot, consisting of five hundred men each, besides commissioned and non-commissioned officers, commanded by Sir Peter Halket,\* and Col. Dunbar,† to repair to Virginia, and to be there augmented

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\* Sir PETER HALKET, of Pitfarnham, Fifeshire, a baronet of Nova Scotia, was a son of Sir Peter Wedderburne, of Gosford, who assumed his wife's name. In 1734, he sat in the House of Commons, for Dumferline, and was Lt. Colonel of the 44th, at Sir John Cope's defeat, in 1745. Being released on his parole, by Charles Edward, he was ordered by Cumberland to rejoin his regiment, and serve against the Jacobites. With great propriety he refused such dishonorable duty, saying, that "His Royal Highness was master of his commission, but not of his honor." The King approved of Sir Peter's course, and he retained his rank. On the 26th February, 1751, he succeeded to the colonelcy of his regiment. He was killed at the head of his regiment, in the battle of Monongahela, on the 9th July, 1755; and his bones lay unburied until 1759, when they were discovered by his son and decently interred.—*Sargent's Expedition against Fort Du Quesne*, pp. 274, 284.

† Col. THOMAS DUNBAR, had been Lt. Colonel of the 18th Royal Irish; and on the 27th April, 1752, was promoted to the colonelcy of the 4th regiment of foot. In November, 1755, he was superceded in the command of this regiment, and sent into honorable retire

to the number of seven hundred each, but likewise to send orders to Gov. Shirley and Sir Wm. Pepperell, to raise two regiments, whereof they are respectively appointed colonels, of one thousand men each; and also to sign commissions for a number of officers to serve in the said two regiments, and who will forthwith repair to North America, for that purpose.

Whereas, there will be wanting a considerable number of men to make up the designed complement of the said four regiments, it is His Majesty's pleasure, that you should be taking the previous steps towards contributing, as far as you can, to have about three thousand men, in readiness to be enlisted.

And it is His Majesty's intention, that a general officer of rank and capacity to be appointed to command in chief all the King's forces in North America; a deputy quarter master general and a commissary of the muster, shall set out as soon as conveniently may be, in order to prepare every thing for the arrival of the forces above-mentioned, from Europe, and for the raising of the others in America.

You will receive from that general, and the other officers just mentioned, a full and exact account of the arms, clothing and other necessaries, to be sent upon this important occasion; as likewise of the ordnance stores, and of the officers, and attendants, belonging thereto; all which, being ordered for this service, are such proofs of His Majesty's regard for the security and welfare of his subjects in those parts, as cannot fail to excite you to exert yourself and those under your care, to take the most vigorous steps to repel your common danger; and to show that the King's orders, which were sent you last year, by the Earl of Holderness, and were renewed to you in my letter of the 5th of July, have at last roused that emulation and spirit, which every man owes, at this time, to His Majesty, the public and himself.

The King will not therefore imagine, that either you, or the rest of his government, will suffer the least neglect or delay, in the performance of the present service, now strongly recommended to you, particularly with regard to the following points, viz.:

That you should carefully provide a sufficient quantity of fresh victuals, at the expense of your government, to be ready for the use of the troops, at their arrival.

That you should likewise furnish the officers, who may have occasion to go from place to place, with all necessaries for travelling by land, in case there are no means of going by sea.

And that you should use your utmost diligence and authority, in procuring an exact observance of such orders as shall be issued from time to time, by the commander in chief, for quartering the troops, impressing carriages and providing all necessaries for such forces as shall arrive, or be raised within your government.

As the articles abovementioned, are of a local and peculiar nature, and arising entirely within your government, it is almost needless for me to acquaint you, that

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ment, as lieutenant governor of Gibraltar, in consequence of his injudicious retreat after Braddock's defeat. He became major general on the 18th of January, 1758, and a lieutenant general, on December 18th, 1760, but was never again employed in active service. He died previous to 1778.—*Note of Dr. O'Callaghan, in New York Colonial Documents, Vol. VI. p. 915.*



His Majesty will expect that the charge thereof be defrayed by his subjects belonging to the same.

But with regard to such other articles, which are of a more general concern, it is the King's pleasure, that the same should be supplied by a common fund, to be established for the benefit of all the colonies collectively, in North America; for which purpose, you will use your utmost endeavors to induce the Assembly of your province, to raise forthwith as large a sum as can be afforded, as their contribution to this common fund, to be employed provisionally, for the general service of North America (particularly for paying the charge of levying the troops), to make up the complement of the regiments above mentioned, until such time as a plan of general union of His Majesty's northern colonies, for their common defence, can be perfected.

You will carefully confer, or correspond, as you shall have opportunity, upon every thing relative to the present service, with the said General Sir William Pepperell, and Governor Shirley, or either of them.

And as it is the King's intention to give all proper encouragement to such persons, who shall engage to serve upon this occasion, you will acquaint all such persons, in the King's name, that they will receive arms and clothing from hence; and that they shall be sent back (if desired) to their respective habitations, when the service in America is over.

As the several governors, in all the King's provinces and colonies, in North America, will receive, by this conveyance, a letter to the same effect with this, which I now send you, they will be prepared at the same time, to obey His Majesty's command; and I am to direct you to correspond with all, or either of them, occasionally, as you shall find it expedient for the general service.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, November 4th, 1754.

Gentlemen:—This letter will be put into your hands, by Sir John St. Clair, whom the King has been pleased to appoint deputy quarter master general of his forces in North America; and has ordered him to repair forthwith to Virginia, to make the necessary preparations for the reception of the troops.

It is therefore the King's pleasure, that you shall be aiding and assisting to Sir John St. Clair, in the execution of this duty, and shall give him the best advice you can, upon all occasions, relating to the King's service; particularly with regard to those points mentioned to you in my letter of the 26th [October last] past, whereof I have given a copy to Sir John St. Clair, and from whom you will receive a duplicate of the same.

I am, gentleman, your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the first Monday in February, 1755.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the captain of Fort George, enlist, as soon as he shall think it necessary, to the number of fifty men, for a company, to meet at said fort, as often as the captain shall think proper, to practice exercising the cannon; and to repair to said fort on all occasions to defend the same, without any expense to the government, and be excused from all other military duties.

The gentlemen that were appointed to make the draught of an answer to His Excellency, Governor Shirley's letter, and to take into consideration what further is necessary to be done by this Assembly, in respect to raising a number of troops for His Majesty's service, made report, which was read and accepted.

*Deputy Governor Gardner to Governor Shirley.*

Providence, February 8th, 1755.

Sir:—Your Excellency's letter to Governor Greene, came to my hands, and was immediately laid before our General Assembly then sitting, who taking it under consideration, have directed me to assure Your Excellency,—

That they are determined, with the utmost alacrity to perform every thing His Majesty hath been pleased to command, and caused to be signified to them by Sir Thomas Robinson, his secretary of state, in his letter to this colony.

That in order thereto, at their former meeting, they ordered one hundred men to be raised, of which, they then gave Your Excellency notice; and they have now done all that can be necessary to render their former resolution effectual, so as to have their men ready at any time His Majesty shall direct, and inform them by any channel whatsoever his pleasure, concerning their destination.

That the colony, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, have ordered those men to be raised, and every thing else to be done in conformity thereto, as far as

they are able to understand them ; and as it is only for want of the knowledge in what manner His Majesty intended the men raised by this colony shall be used, the General Assembly's fully acceding at this time, to Your Excellency's offer, contained in your letter.

That therefore they have only ordered all things to be in readiness, and only wait for such orders or instructions as may justify them in the disposition of the men they raise ; and Your Excellency may rest fully assured, that if the men raised by this colony are destined by His Majesty to make part of Your Excellency's, Sir William Pepperell's or the Irish regiments, and that blank commissions will not be sent to the Governor of this colony, to be filled up here, for their officers, the General Assembly will thankfully accept of Your Excellency's offer ; and will have their men ready by such time and in such manner, as you shall direct ; esteeming it a great favor, that the men by them raised may not only be under Your Excellency's care and protection as their colonel, but more immediately as their captain, also.

The General Assembly hope for Your Excellency's favorable interpretation of their doing herein ; and that nothing may be looked upon as dilatory or evasive in them ; and that you will excuse them for waiting His Majesty's directions before they give you a direct answer.

They also return you thanks for your kind offer, and will always think themselves happy in being favored with your friendly influence.

I am, with great esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,  
JOHN GARDNER, Deputy Governor.

P. S. The certificates and beating orders are retained for the present.

Whereupon, be it enacted by this Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a committee of five or more suitable persons, be appointed, to be called a committee of war, with full power and authority during the recess of the General Assembly, to give out orders to such officers as may be appointed by the Assembly, for that purpose, to enlist and raise the hundred men already ordered, at any time as soon as orders are received from the crown, through any channel, for our so doing ; and how they are to be destined.

And be it further enacted, that for those purposes, the said committee of war shall have, and hereby is granted them power to draw out of the general treasury from time to time, such sums of money as may be necessary for paying the bounty given by the Assembly, to those who shall enlist, and the charges of enlisting, billeting and transporting such soldiers, and all other expenses necessarily attending the affair.

And be it further enacted, that the said committee of war

have power to order and direct in what manner, and what place or places the men shall be subsisted when raised, and to give orders for transporting and sending away the company when raised, to the place, and in such manner as His Majesty may direct the same to be done; and that they have full power and authority to act, transact, and do all and every thing necessary and expedient to be done for effectually carrying into execution all such commands as this colony have already had, or hereafter may receive from His Majesty; and that they be at all times accountable to the General Assembly for their doings.

And that the General Assembly, before they rise, appoint one lieutenant and one ensign for the said company; and also make provision, that the general treasury be sufficiently supplied with money for all, and every of the purposes, aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that thirteen men more be added to the one hundred already ordered.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that John Tillinghast, Nicholas Cook, Stephen Hopkins and Daniel Jenckes, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby constituted a committee to draught a letter immediately, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, in answer to the letter of the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robinson, sent to this colony; and that therein a prayer be made to His Majesty, for a suitable number of cannon, for Fort George; and that a plan of said fort be sent with the said letter; and the secretary is hereby directed to send to said committee a copy of such letters and other papers, as they shall have occasion for; and that a copy of said letter be laid before the General Assembly, at their next session; and that the same committee, or the major part of them, also draught a letter, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, to be sent to the Agent, directing him to use his best endeavors to obtain said cannon, and lay that also before the General Assembly, at their next session.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, February 5th, 1755.

Sir:—A month ago, I received a letter from the Honorable John Gardner, Esq., Deputy Governor of your colony, acquainting me, that the Assembly there “had passed an act to raise a company of an hundred men, including officers, and made suitable provision for all other necessaries, agreeably to the directions of the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robinson’s letter, of the 26th October last; and that the Assembly only waited for the arrival of blank commissions, to be filled by Your Honor.”

I had the honor of a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, of the same tenor and date with that above mentioned, as Governor Gardner observes he imagines I had. It is a circular one, written to the Governors of the several colonies concerned.

I acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Gardner’s letter, by Mr. Chace, a few days after I received it, in one to himself, and am now to answer it more fully to Your Honor.

The purport of His Majesty’s orders, signified to the several Governors, by Sir Thomas Robinson’s letter, is (among other things) that they should recommend it to their respective Assemblies to furnish fresh provisions for the troops that should arrive in their colonies; and to raise among them three thousand men, and a sum of money towards paying their respective quotas of the levy money.

Those three thousand men are (as it seems clear to me) intended to complete mine, and Sir William Pepperell’s regiments, now raising in America, which are to consist of one thousand privates each, besides non-commissioned officers, sergeants, corporals and drums, which will amount to one hundred more, for each regiment; and that the remaining eight hundred men are to complete the two Irish regiments, designed for Virginia, from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty privates each; as also to fill up the number of those which may be lost in the passage.

As to the two Irish regiments, they being old corps, were both full officered before they left Europe; and Your Honor must have observed from the public prints, that five of the captaincies both in mine and Sir William Pepperell’s regiments, besides the three field officers’ companies in each, were filled up by His Majesty, soon after the revival of the regiments; as were all the lieutenantancies, except four; and ensigncies, except four or five; so that it seems to be most evident, that it was not His Majesty’s intent that the Governors should have the appointment of the officers [of the force] raised within their respective colonies.

Neither Sir William Pepperell nor myself can be certain what commissions will be sent blank, to be filled up by ourselves, until the arrival of our lieutenant colonels; we can’t possibly have but a very few; and Your Honor is sensible that it may be expected some at least of those should be distributed among the half-pay officers of our late regiments, now here and unprovided for.

I should be extremely glad, if it was in my power, to oblige Your Honor’s Assembly with blank commissions, for a set of officers, to be filled up by Your Honor, for the company to be raised by them in your colony; and as that is not in my power, if it would be acceptable to the Assembly, that I should be their captain, I will take them for my own company, and will fill up a lieutenant’s and ensign’s commissions for it, upon my receiving my blanks, with such persons as Your Honor

shall be pleased to appoint; and I shall moreover esteem the company's being raised by the Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island under these terms, to be a great honor done me, which I shall acknowledge upon any occasion in my power, of serving them.

If what I propose, is not agreeable, Your Honor and the Assembly may have the men drafted either into Sir William Pepperell's and mine, or the two Virginia regiments, as the King's service may require, which ever is chosen.

The ready compliance which the Assembly has paid to His Majesty's orders contained in Sir Thomas Robinson's letter, according to their act, will be, doubtless, extremely acceptable to His Majesty.

If what I propose to Your Honor, is agreeable, I should be glad if the Assembly would increase the number of the men to one hundred and ten, exclusive of commissioned officers; out of which, four may be enlisted as sergeants, four for corporals, and two for drums, as Your Honor shall order.

I have likewise sent one hundred and ten blank enlistments, and one hundred and ten certificates, the form of beating orders, some articles of war, and instructions for the officers, whether commissioned or non-commissioned, whom Your Honor shall think fit to choose to proceed to enlisting the men.

I am, with very great respect, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. William Greene, Esq., Governor of the colony of Rhode Island.

P. S. I have ordered the bearer to wait for Your Honor's answer.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, February 17, 1755.

Sir:—The designs of the French (in which they have so far already succeeded), for invading His Majesty's just rights, in these northern parts of America, contrary to the most solemn treaties, require that these governments, as well for their own safety as in faithfulness to His Majesty, without delay to use all means in their power to frustrate these perfidious and pernicious practices.

Among other measures, necessary to be taken, especially at this critical conjuncture (the present aspect of affairs threatening a speedy rupture), nothing we can do, seems likely to tend more, by the blessing of God, to defeat the schemes of the French, to swallow up all His Majesty's dominions on the continent of America, than that the governments should agree in the most effectual means for stopping all supplies of provision and warlike stores being sent out of any of these colonies, without the enclosed precaution against their being carried to the French.

The General Assembly of this Province, has passed an order for that end (a copy of which I now enclose); and have desired me to solicit the Governors of the rest of His Majesty's colonies to join with us in this necessary expedient for our common safety.

Your Honor will observe that the time for the continuance of this prohibition, is restrained to three months; but if the other governments should join with us, I make no doubt of bringing my Assembly to extend it further.

It would give me great pleasure to have Your Honor's concurrence with me

in sentiments concerning what appears to me so salutary a measure at this conjuncture, for the general good of all His Majesty's colonies in North America.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest respect, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Governor Greene.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, February 17, 1755.

Sir:—This government has thought it necessary to take up and confine all the subjects of the French king, within this Province, apprehending that their only business here, is to purchase provisions and military stores, to furnish the French, the better to carry on the war against us, or to gain intelligence of the consultations of the English governments, and the preparations they may be making for their own security, and by ways unknown to us, to convey the same to their own governments.

Therefore, at the desire of the Assembly of this Province, I would earnestly desire Your Honor to use your utmost endeavor that the like precaution be immediately taken in your government, to prevent the mischief which probably will otherwise ensue. I enclose the copy of the vote referred to.

I am, with the greatest respect, &c. &c.,

W. SHIRLEY

To Governor Greene.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Greene.*

Boston, New England, February 24th, 1755.

Sir:—It would be needless for me to observe to you, how His Majesty's colonies upon this continent, are surrounded with the encroachments of the French; they have long since marked out for themselves a large empire upon the back of it, extending from Cape Breton to the Gulf of Mexico, and comprehending the country between the Apalachian Mountains and Pacific Ocean, with the numerous powerful tribes of Indians inhabiting it; and they are now finishing the extreme parts by a communication between Louisbourg and Quebec, across the Isthmus of Nova Scotia and Bay of Funda, at one end, and a junction of Canada with the Mississippi, by a line of forts, upon the great lakes and rivers, at the other.

It is fallen to the lot of the most eastern colonies, to be hemmed in by that part of their encroachments, which begin in Nova Scotia, and end at Crown Point, \* \* \* among which, the fort of Beau Sejour, upon the isthmus of the peninsular, that on St. John's River, and Fort St. Frederic, near Crown Point, are the principal.

His Majesty, out of his paternal care for the welfare and security of his good subjects, of these colonies, in September, 1753, signified his royal pleasure, by the Right Honorable Earl of Holderness's letter, dated the 21st of that month, to his Governors there, that they should, with the armed force of the militia under their respective commands (if need be), remove all encroachments upon his territories, within the limits of their several governments, and use their best endeavors for

promoting a general union among them for their common defence against an invader.

In July last, by a letter from the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robinson, dated the 5th of that month, His Majesty signified his orders to me and Colonel Lawrence, Lieutenant Governor, and commander in chief of Nova Scotia, that we should concert measures for attacking the French forts in that Province.

And in December last, I had the honor to receive another letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, dated the 26th of October, wherein he acquainted me, that His Majesty, upon taking the state of his colonies in North America, into his royal consideration, was graciously pleased, besides ordering two regiments of foot from Ireland, under the command of Sir Peter Halket and Col. Dunbar, to be sent to Virginia, to order me and Sir William Pepperell to raise each of us a regiment of foot, consisting of one thousand men, \* \* \* under our respective commands, for the defence of his colonies here.

In obedience to the first mentioned orders, Colonel Lawrence and I have concerted measures for dislodging the French from their forts, in Nova Scotia, and driving them out of that Province; and, among other preparations for that purpose, I am now raising a reinforcement of two thousand men, for His Majesty's regular troops there, to be embarked in time to be landed in the Bay of Funda by the first week of April; which, I have reason to think, I can depend upon accomplishing.

In consequence of the latter, I have made a great progress in raising my regiment, and believe there is no great doubt of its being completed by the latter end of March.

Mr. Dinwiddie, Governor of Virginia, in his letter to me, dated January the 14th, acquainted me that his government had great dependence upon a strong diversion's being made by Sir William Pepperell's and my regiments this summer, at some part of Canada, in favor of the attempts of the western colonies, to repel the French upon the Ohio; and such a diversion of the French forces, must likewise greatly facilitate the enterprise for driving the French from their encroachments in Nova Scotia.

It is most evident, that at the same time, the expedition in Nova Scotia, and the schemes which principally employ the attention of the French, and a great part of their forces upon the Ohio, afford a most favorable opportunity for the four colonies of New England, and those of New York and the New Jerseys, with their united strength to erect such a fort near Crown Point, as may command the French fort there, and curb the city of Montreal itself.

These were the motives, which induced me to make the proposal of such an attempt to the Assembly within my own government, which is particularly set forth in my speech to them upon this occasion; a copy of which, together with a copy of the resolves of the Assembly consequent upon it, I enclose to Your Honor.

In these resolves, Your Honor will find what number of troops this government thinks it necessary to be raised in the whole for the execution of this attempt, with the quotas they propose for the consideration of the several colonies concerned; and I hope it will not be thought that they have under rated their own quota, when it is considered that out of the twenty-two hundred men, which are raising for Sir William Pepperell's and my regiments, and two thousand now raising for the expedition to Nova Scotia, upwards of three thousand of them will be taken out of this Province; which, with the twelve hundred proposed to be raised in it for Crown



Point, will amount to considerably more than one eighth part of its fighting men; and that they were at an heavy charge last year, in carrying on an expedition upon the river Kennebec, and erecting Fort Halifax there; which, as it is a great advance towards securing the principal pass into the heart of Canada, over against their metropolis of Quebec, and through which river, the French have the shortest passage into the Atlantic Ocean, of any river in North America, must be deemed an advantage to all the eastern colonies in general.

Your Honor will observe, that the Assembly hath desired me to appoint an officer for the chief command of the proposed expedition. It is essential to the service, that such an one should be appointed; and as it seemed necessary that he should be proposed at the beginning, and this government is the first mover in this expedition (as it was likewise in that against Cape Breton, of which also I appointed the commander in chief) it is hoped, the other colonies \* \* \* \* \* will have no objection to it.

The gentleman whom I shall nominate for this command, will, I am persuaded, show Your Honor that the only motive which will sway me in this appointment, is a strict regard to His Majesty's service, and the interest of the common cause, without the least partiality to any one of the governments concerned.

The gentleman I have thought of, upon this important occasion, is Col. William Johnson, of Mount Johnson, in the Mohawk country, whose distinguished character for the great influence he hath for several years maintained over the Indians of the Six Nations, is the circumstance which determines me in my choice, preferably to any gentleman of my own government, though there are not wanting there, officers of rank and experience, out of whom I could have nominated one.

Your Honor is sensible that one of the principal things we have in view in this expedition, is to retain such of those castles as are not yet gone over to the French, in the English interest, and to reclaim those which are; and it would be of unspeakable advantage to us at this conjuncture, if we could engage any of them in the proposed service.

Colonel Johnson raised and commanded a regiment of Indians in the late intended expedition against Canada; and with regard to his power to engage them now, no gentleman can stand in competition with him; besides, his military qualifications for this particular service, and knowledge of the country and place, against which this expedition is destined, are very conspicuous.

The fort intended to be built in this expedition, is proposed to be so situated as to command Fort St. Frederic, at Crown Point, to be made defensible against the strength which the French can suddenly bring against it from Montreal; to be erected by the army employed; and as to the support, garrisoning and command of it, that must depend upon His Majesty's pleasure, which will be soon known concerning it.

It must be fresh in Your Honor's memory, that the reduction of the French fort, at Crown Point, was looked upon as a necessary step in the late intended expedition against Canada, and how far advanced the preparations of the colonies concerned in that scheme were, till I know not by what fatal disunion of our counsels, a most unhappy stop was put to it.

One remarkable circumstance occurs to me upon this occasion; when the late Sir Peter Warren and myself were endeavoring to engage one Monsieur Vauderic, then at Boston, a very intelligent Frenchman, as a pilot to our forces up the river St. Lawrence, in the aforesaid late expedition, he smiled, and told us he

should not be convinced that the English did in good earnest design an expedition against Canada, from these colonies, until he should hear that Fort St. Frederic was attacked.

But I am persuaded nothing more need be urged, to Your Honor, concerning the great importance of the proposed expedition, except that besides securing ourselves against future depredations of the French, from their fort at Crown Point, in a time of war; we shall wipe off the reproach of the colonies for suffering that dangerous encroachment upon His Majesty's territories, to be at first erected.

I should have mentioned to Your Honor, that the two houses of the Assembly in this Province, have bound themselves by oath to secrecy, both with respect to the expedition now preparing against the French encroachments in Nova Scotia, and that proposed against those at Crown Point; which I thought proper to observe, that Your Honor may use your discretion in that point, with regard to the Assembly within your own government.

The same union of sentiments, and like spirit with which the four sister colonies of New England acted in the late expeditions against Cape Breton and Canada, will, I hope, prevail in the colonies of all of them at this critical conjuncture; and induce them to join in the proposed expedition.

Your Honor is sensible that in order to avail ourselves of this favorable opportunity for such an enterprise, a speedy determination upon it, and the greater despatch in our preparations for it is necessary.

I have commissioned the Honorable Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., to wait on Your Honor, upon this occasion, and to solicit your government to join with my own in this necessary piece of service for the protection of His Majesty's colonies under our care, against the dangerous encroachments of the French, and hope he will succeed in the execution of their commission.

I am, with the greatest regard, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Honorable Governor William Greene.

P. S. I thought it might redeem time to send this by the post, in order to put it in Your Honor's power to convene the Assembly in your government as soon as possible, I made use of that opportunity. The commissioner will start from hence on Monday next, the 3d of March.

W. S.

*Secretary Robinson to Governor Greene.*

Whitehall, January 23, 1755.

Sir:—The King, being determined that nothing shall be wanting towards the support of his colonies and subjects in North America, has commanded me to signify to you His Majesty's intention to augment the regiments in British pay (viz. : not only Sir Peter Halket's and Col. Dunbar's, but likewise those which are now employed in Nova Scotia), to the number of one thousand men, each; to which end, you will correspond with Major General Braddock, or the commander of the King's forces for the time being, from whom you will receive directions for the sending such contributions of men, as shall be wanting, and to such places where the same shall be quartered, or employed under his command.

As there is probably a considerable number of persons, as well among the natives of America, as among such foreigners who may be arrived there from different parts, particularly from Germany, who will be capable and willing to bear arms upon this occasion, the King does not doubt but that you will be able by care and diligence, to affect this intended augmentation, and to defray the charge of levying the same from the common fund, to be established for the benefit of all the colonies, collectively, in North America, pursuant to His Majesty's directions, signified to you by my letter of the 26th of October last, for that purpose; and as an encouragement to all such persons, who shall engage in this service, it is the King's intention (which you will assure them, in His Majesty's name) that they shall receive arms and clothing, at the King's expense; and that they will not only be sent back (if desired,) to their respective habitations, when the service in America shall be completed and ended, but shall be entitled, in every respect, to the same advantages with those troops which may be already raised in consequence of your former order.\*

I am, etc.,

T. ROBINSON.

To His Excellency, Governor Greene.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the 6th day of March, 1755.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

An Act for raising four companies in this colony, of one hundred men each, officers included, to be employed on a secret expedition, in case other governments shall join and carry on the proposed enterprise.

Whereas, His Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that a speedy stop should be put to the encroachments made upon his just rights in North America, by the French, hath been repeated unto this government; who have always been heretofore, and still are desirous of exerting themselves to aid and assist unto the utmost of their ability in every purpose having a tendency that way; and inasmuch as there is a scheme proposed for the governments of New England, to attempt, in conjunction with other neighboring governments, to remove the

encroachments which the French have made upon the lands and country of our sovereign, at or near Crown Point; and this it is supposed may be effected by building immediately a strong fort upon the rocky eminence, near the said Crown Point;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that as soon as this government shall receive advice from His Excellency, Governor Shirley, that the other governments of New England have acceded to and concurred in carrying on the above mentioned enterprise of building such a fort, there be forthwith raised in this colony, at the government's expense, four hundred good and able bodied men, including officers, to be by the Assembly appointed, and commissioned by His Honor, the Governor; which troops, when raised, shall join and act in conjunction with those of the other governments in New England, under the command of the general of the whole army; subject, nevertheless, to the control of the General Assembly of this colony.

And be it further enacted, that the gentlemen hereafter named, be, and are hereby appointed officers, for enlisting and commanding, according to the rules of military discipline, the aforesaid troops when raised, to wit:

Christopher Harris, colonel.

Edward Cole, captain; Samuel Nichols, lieutenant; and Joshua Bill, ensign, of the first company.

Robert Sterry, captain; David Dexter, lieutenant; and Thomas Burket, ensign, of the second company.

Henry Babcock, captain; Edward Gray, lieutenant; and Ichabod Babcock, Jr., ensign, of the third company.

Abraham Francis, captain; John Wardwell, lieutenant; and Joseph Potter, of Warwick, ensign, of the fourth company.

And be it further enacted, that the following wages, in old tenor bills of public credit, shall be the pay and allowance per month, of the officers and troops to be raised:

The colonel, £150; every captain, £50; every lieutenant, £36; every ensign, £28.

The sergeants, £20 per month, and £20 bounty, at the time

of enlisting, if provided with a good firelock ; and no more than £15 without ; that if the arms brought by such officers into service in the army, shall be damnified afterwards, or lost, the same shall be made good by the colony, according to the value thereof.

The drummers, £20 per month ; and £15 bounty, at the time of enlisting ; moreover, every serjeant and drummer shall receive of the government, and have gratis, one good blanket, as a further encouragement, or £8 in lieu thereof, if he furnish himself with one.

Every common soldier £16 per month, and £20 bounty, if furnished with a good firelock ; but no more than £15, without ; that if the arms brought by any soldier into the army, shall be damnified afterwards, or lost, the same shall be made good by the colony, according to the value thereof.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no officer or soldier shall be liable to an arrest, or be imprisoned, or stayed upon any execution, unless the same be for a debt or judgment for £200, old tenor, or upwards ; that some one of the committee of war inquire into the truth of any demand upon mesne process, that every person in execution, shall, upon his enlisting, be released ; provided, no one judgment exceeds the above mentioned sum of £200 ; and in all and every such case, the sheriff shall be indemnified, and the bail acquitted ; nevertheless, if one plaintiff have two or more demands or judgments against one person, the whole shall be deemed and taken to be but one debt.

And for a further encouragement, it is enacted, that all such officers and soldiers shall be exempted from any and every arrest or execution, for the space or term of one whole year after the expedition is ended, unless the same shall arise or accrue upon a new contract, made after the return of such officer or soldier ; or it be for a greater sum than £200, old tenor ; and shall not, during said term of one year, be impressed for, or into any further military duty or service.

And be it further enacted, that as soon as His Honor, the Governor, shall receive advice from the Governor of the Massa

chusetts, that the other governments of New England have acceded to the scheme proposed, and not only taken proper measures, but actually begun to carry the same into execution, he shall forthwith issue a proclamation pursuant and conformable to this act, and give commissions unto all the officers, that they may be authorized and enabled to raise the troops as soon as possible ; and that according to the regulation aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that the committee of war, for the time being, be authorized, and are hereby fully empowered and directed to purchase or procure four hundred pounds weight of good gun powder, sixteen hundred pounds weight of lead, with a sufficient quantity of flints, and four hundred hatchets ; and also all such provisions, and warlike and other stores, as shall be necessary for the subsistence of the troops ; and to carry on the expedition, and render it effectual ; which ammunition and stores, when purchased or procured, they shall cause to be transported unto Albany, as the most proper place for a general rendezvous ; and as to the provisions, this Assembly give it as their opinion, that as much as will serve two months will be sufficient.

And be it further enacted, that the said committee of war be authorized and are hereby fully empowered to draw out of the general treasury all and every such sum and sums of money as shall be wanting from time to time, for the purpose aforesaid, together with a sufficiency for paying the bounty, providing tents, and defraying the incident expense of enlisting, billeting, and marching the troops, and all other necessary charges, which their support and subsistence may require during the service.

And that the general treasurer may be speedily supplied with money sufficient for effecting the ends and purposes, aforesaid,—

Be it further enacted, that there be struck off and emitted, upon the credit of this colony, the sum of £60,000, old tenor, if said expedition shall be carried on, and that sum found necessary therefor ; and that the committee to be hereafter appointed for signing said bills, do, upon the first intelligence

from the Governor of the Massachusetts, that the intended expedition will be carried on, strike off, and sign and lodge in the general treasury, at the colony's expense, one half of the sum aforesaid; and the remainder as occasion shall require; that the bills be struck off the large plates last used by the colony; the same being first new dated, with an addition of the words, "Crown Point," upon the back; and signed by three of the committee to be chosen.

And be it further enacted, that the bills so emitted, shall, pursuant to act of Parliament, be called in and sunk within the space and term of two years, and that by a tax to be levied upon the government; that is to say: one half within the space or term of a year; and the other half, within the space or term of two years, from the time of making this act; which tax shall be made and levied in the same manner as that now to be levied, was assessed upon the inhabitants, but by a new proportion to the towns.

And be it further enacted, that Daniel Updike, Joshua Babcock, Jeremiah Lippitt and Benjamin Nichols, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee for signing the bills so to be emitted; and that any three of them shall be sufficient, as to number.

And be it further enacted, that a commissary shall be chosen and appointed, to attend the troops during the intended expedition; and have £60 per month, for wages, without any allowance for commissions; and Mr. Christopher Champlin, Jr., is hereby chosen and appointed to that office.

And be it further enacted, that in case the committee of war shall not be able to procure or purchase a sufficient number of good arms, that His Honor, the Governor, issue a warrant, for impressing as many as shall be found wanting and necessary.

And be it further enacted, that if any or either of the officers now chosen, shall refuse the service, or die before it is over, that the committee of war, or the major part of them, appoint another or others in the room of him or them, that shall so die or refuse.

And be it further enacted, that every person who shall lose

a limb, or be otherwise disabled in the service, during this intended expedition, so as to be rendered incapable of procuring himself a livelihood, he shall be allowed and have a pension of £50 a year, during life, out of the general treasury.

And furthermore, this Assembly choose and appoint the same gentlemen as were chosen and appointed last month, to be the committee of war ; and they are hereby vested with all and every the power and authority granted them at that time ; with this addition, that any two shall make a quorum.

And lastly, it is enacted, that the act made and passed by this Assembly, at their session in January last, for raising one hundred men ; and another act made and passed at their session, last month, for making an addition of thirteen men more unto that hundred, be both, and each of them, is hereby repealed.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Jer. Lippitt, Peter Bours, Dan'l Jenckes and Joshua Babcock, Esq., be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to prepare a bill, to restrain the sending provisions or warlike stores to Cape Breton or any other French port, or settlement upon the continent of North America, or islands near or adjacent thereunto ; and another, for the taking up and securing all the subjects of the French king, that shall be found within this colony ; or any other person or persons, that shall be suspected of carrying or conveying, or of intending to carry or convey any intelligence from this colony, unto the French, of any proceedings of the English, in respect to the controversy now subsisting between the two nations.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the captain of Fort George, be, and he is hereby directed and ordered to purchase for the colony's use, thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, and draw money out of the general treasury to pay for the same ; and that the captain do not allow or suffer any powder to be fired away at said Fort, on any holiday, or days of public rejoicing.

Whereas, the committee appointed to make the draught of a letter to be sent unto the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Robin-



son, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and another to the agent, have laid their performances before this Assembly, who having heard the same read,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered to make such alterations in said letter, or either of them, as they shall think proper; that when they have so done, the same be presented to His Honor, the Governor, in order to their being by him signed and sent home by the first opportunity; and that copies of said letters be exhibited to the General Assembly, at their next session; that in the letter to be sent to the agent, he be directed to be upon his watch, and if any thing shall be moved in Parliament respecting the plan for an union of His Majesty's northern colonies, projected at Albany, which may have a tendency to infringe on our charter privileges, that he use his utmost endeavors to get it put off until such time as the government is furnished with a copy, and have opportunity of making answer thereunto.

An Act to restrain the sending of provisions and warlike stores to Cape Breton, or any other French port or settlement, in North America,

Whereas, there is, and for some past has been a very pernicious trade carried on from hence, and some other of the northern colonies, to Louisbourg, on the Island of Cape Breton, and other French ports and settlements in North America; by means whereof, the French have been supplied with great quantities of flour and other provisions, and thereby are enabled to support themselves the better in their encroachments on His Majesty's territories on this continent; which if not timely prevented, may prove of a very dangerous, if not fatal consequence to this and all other His Majesty's territories in North America;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the collector of His Majesty's customs, for this colony, shall require of every mas-

ter of a vessel, at his clearing out, an exact account, under his hand, of all the provision and warlike stores, laden or intended to be laden, on board his vessel before sailing; which account shall appear to have been sworn to before an assistant, or justice of the peace, with an additional oath, that he will not lade or suffer to be laden on board any other provisions or warlike stores, after clearing out his said vessel.

And whensoever it shall appear to said officer or his deputy, that any vessel has on board, or that there is intended to be laden on board any vessel, more provisions or warlike stores than is necessary for the victualling and defence of said vessel on her proposed voyage, the said officer is hereby required and fully empowered to demand and take of the master of such vessel, a bond, with one or more sureties in the penal sum of £1,000, with this condition: that all such provisions and stores of war shall be landed within His Majesty's dominions, and no where else; unless at Surranam, Esquebo, or Barbeties.

And be it further enacted, that whenever a certificate shall be produced to the collector, or his deputy, from the chief officer of the customs, where such provisions and warlike stores have been landed, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of this act, then such bond shall be cancelled and made void.

And be it further enacted, that this act shall be forthwith published by the clerk of the lower house, and a copy thereof sent to the collector, in order for his conducting himself according to its true intent and meaning; and that the same be, and abide in force until the first Wednesday in May next, and no longer.

An Act empowering their Honors, the Governor and Deputy Governor, the assistants and judges of the superior and inferior courts, and each of them, to take up and secure Frenchmen, &c.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, His Honor, the Deputy Governor, the assistants, the judges of the supe-

rior court of judicature, and judges of the inferior court of common pleas, and each of them, be, and he is hereby requested and fully empowered by warrant, under his, their or either of their hands, to take up and secure at discretion, all and every the subject and subjects of the French king, that shall be found within this colony, or any other person or persons that are, or shall be suspected of carrying or conveying, or of intending to carry, or convey unto the French any intelligence from this colony, or any of the proceedings of the English, in respect to the controversy subsisting between the two nations; and that every officer who shall have a warrant for taking up any subject of the French king, or person suspected, as aforesaid, is hereby authorized and fully empowered to break locks and bars, if occasion require.

The two foregoing acts were published in Newport, March, the 10th day, 1755, according to order, by  
JOSIAS LYNDON, clerk of the lower house.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all business lying before them unfinished, be, and the same is hereby referred unto their next session; and that this Assembly be adjourned unto the last Monday of April next, if called by either of their Honors, the Governor or Deputy Governor; but if not called before, nor at said time, then this Assembly be, and hereby is dissolved.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1755.*

The Hon. William Greene, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Tillinghast,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Mr. Nicholas Cooke,  
Mr. Obadiah Brown,  
Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Joseph Brownell, Jr.,  
Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt,  
Mr. William Richmond,  
Mr. John Congdon,  
Col. Thomas Hazard.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Edward Scott,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. Peter Bours,  
Capt. Job Bennett, Jr.  
Mr. James Sheffield,  
Mr. William Read.

*Providence.*

Mr. Daniel Jenckes,  
Mr. Nicholas Brown,  
Mr. George Brown,  
Mr. Henry Harris.

## DEPUTIES.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
 Mr. John Allen,  
 Mr. Thomas Brownell,  
 Mr. William Earl.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,  
 Mr. Joseph Lippitt,  
 Mr. John Walton, Jr.,  
 Mr. Benjamin Arnold.

*Westerly.*

Capt. Benjamin Randall.  
 Mr. Hezekiah Collins.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Edward Sands,  
 Mr. Samuel Rathbun, Jr.

*North Kingstown.*

Col. Immanuel Northup,  
 Mr. Beriah Brown.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. John Potter,  
 Mr. Rowland Robinson.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. William Spencer,  
 Maj. John Arnold.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Josiah Arnold, Jr.  
 Mr. William Martin.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. John Aldrich,  
 Mr. Jonathan Arnold.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
 Capt. Amos Hammond.

*Glocester.*

Capt. John Smith,  
 Mr. Richard Steere,

*Charlestown.*

Col. Christopher Champlin,  
 Capt. Joseph Stanton.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Thomas Rogers,  
 Mr. Philip Greene.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Aaron Bowen,  
 Mr. Richard Stafford.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Reynolds,  
 Mr. John Weight.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Thomas Gould,  
 Mr. Joshua Coggeshall, Jr.

*Bristol.*

Capt. Joseph Russell,  
 Mr. Theajashub Bourn.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Samuel Durfey,  
 Mr. Thomas Howland.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. Joseph Wood,  
 Mr. Moses Palmer.

*Warren.*

Mr. James Brown,  
 Capt. Benjamin Barton.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Job Bartlett,  
 Mr. Jeremiah Whipple.

## DEPUTIES.

*Richmond.*

Major Richard Bayley,  
Mr. John Teft.

*Cranston.*

Mr. Joseph Harris,  
Mr. John Burton.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

The Hon. Gideon Wanton, Benjamin Nichols, James Sheffield, Obadiah Brown, Samuel Chace, James Arnold, George Brown and Nicholas Easton, Esqs., the grand committee, or trustees of the colony, for signing bills of public credit, &c.

And the aforementioned Benjamin Nichols, Esq., is chosen and especially appointed to have and take the care and charge of the colony's mortgages and bonds for tenths, and to receive the the money due, and to be due thereon; and also to make and give proper acquittances and discharges on the mortgages; or otherwise, upon the receipt of any of the colony's money; and in case of non-payment, to put in suit the bonds and mortgages of all those that refuse or omit to make due payment.

Mr. Edward Thurston, general sealer of weights and measures, throughout the government.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this colony, at their session, held at Providence, on Thursday, the 6th of March last, made an act to restrain the sending of provisions and warlike stores to Cape Breton, or any other French port or settlement, in North America; which was to be, and continue in force for a certain term of time, now expired; and forasmuch, as the circumstances that occasioned the making that act, are still subsisting,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act above mentioned, and every clause and article thereof, be, and is hereby revived, and shall have and take effect, and continue in force until the rising of

the General Assembly at their next session ; and that the collector, and every one under him, be, and is hereby forbidden to, and shall not clear out any vessel or vessels to Cape Breton, on any pretence whatever ; and that this act be forthwith proclaimed, and a copy thereof sent immediately unto the collector's office, by the secretary.

Which was done accordingly, at half an hour past three o'clock, in the afternoon of the 9th of May, 1755, by  
THO. WARD, Secretary.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all the officers in this colony's service use their utmost endeavors to get the four hundred men, above mentioned, raised and made into four companies as soon as possible, by enlisting in this and the neighboring governments ; and the committee of war are hereby directed to use their utmost endeavors that the deficiency, if any, may be supplied and made up, by taking into the service of this colony as many Indians of the Six Nations, as shall be found necessary.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the troops of this government shall be formed into and made a distinct regiment, with the addition of a lieutenant colonel and major, to be, by the committee of war, chosen and appointed out of the present officers ; who shall be paid in bills of credit, of the old tenor, as followeth :

The lieutenant colonel, £140 per month, including all his other wages.

The major, £130 per month, including all his other wages.

And the following alterations shall be made, with regard to the pay or wages per month, of the officers ; who shall have, to wit :

The commissary, £120 ; every captain, £100 ; every lieutenant, £60 ; every ensign, £50 ; every corporal, £18.

And be it further enacted, that if a sufficient number of arms cannot be secured to supply all the soldiers for the expedition,

the committee of war is hereby empowered and directed to make use of any number of the colony's arms now in Newport, not exceeding two hundred.

And be it further enacted, that the commissary, who is forthwith to repair unto Albany, shall, during the expedition, supply the officers and soldiers with all things necessary for their subsistence; and upon urgent occasions, draw upon the committee of war; who are to enable themselves to answer all his draughts; either by shipping West India goods, upon the colony's account, to the westward, or in any other method they shall judge most for the interest of the colony.

And be it further enacted, that the committee of war be, and hereby is empowered to borrow or purchase, on the best terms they can, all the arms that shall be necessary; and that any person who shall lend or sell to the colony, a good small arm, shall be exempted from all military duty, for, and during the term of one year; that when the companies, aforesaid, or any one of them, is filled, they, the committee of war, cause them to be transported unto Albany by water; that they provide for the troops a good and skillful surgeon, who shall be paid £100 per month, and be furnished with a chest of proper medicines, at the colony's expense; and one month's pay advanced to every officer and soldier, before his departure; and also to supply each soldier with what clothing they may judge necessary, to be charged to said soldier.

Moreover, the commissary is hereby directed to take care that the troops of this government have as large an allowance of victuals and liquor as is made unto any of the troops belonging unto the other governments; and that in case of the present commissary's death, the commissioned officers be, and are hereby empowered to choose and appoint another in his stead.

And be it further enacted, that the committee of war shall have, and hereby is granted unto them, full power and authority, during the recess of the General Assembly, to act, order, do and transact all and every matter and matters, thing and things necessary and convenient to be ordered, done or executed, for



effectually carrying into execution, the part this government has undertaken in this intended expedition; and that as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes as the General Assembly itself could, ought, or might, were it actually sitting, they, the said committee, being always accountable unto the General Assembly for their conduct.

This Assembly choose and appoint the gentlemen after named, to be committee men of the towns set against their names, respectively;—

Mr. Solomon Drown, for Providence; Messrs. Joseph Stanton and James Congdon, Jr., for Charlestown; John Barker, Esq., for Middletown; Mr. Jeremiah Browne, for Little Compton; Jonathan Randall, Esq., and Mr. Edward Arnold, for Cranston.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Col. Godfrey Mallbone, with Messrs. Thomas Wickham and Evan Mallbone, be, and they, or any two of them, are hereby appointed a committee, to treat with Josiah Arnold, Esq., about the land at Beaver Tail, upon which the light house stands, in order to purchase the same of him, with as much land more, as they shall think it necessary, for the use of said light house; that when they shall have agreed, they take a deed of him unto the colony, and draw money out of the general treasury, to pay for what they purchase; and when the said Josiah Arnold hath made and executed such a deed, that they move him to take upon himself the care and charge of said light house; but if he will not sell and give a deed of said land unto the colony, that the committee engage one of the best attorneys in this colony, to defend, at the colony's expense, against the said Josiah Arnold, in the suit he hath commenced; and that the said committee, or any two of them, have, and take care of said light house in the mean time, and until the end of the General Assembly's next session.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Monday, of June, 1755.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Speaker Cranston, Jas. Sheffield and Benjamin Nichols, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, with full power to settle in the best manner they can, the controversy that hath so long subsisted between this colony and Jahleel Brenton, Esq., and receive of him what they shall find due to this government, giving a full discharge in the colony's behalf.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Jeremiah Lippitt, Daniel Updike and James Honeyman, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to inquire whether this colony hath any right unto part of the French schooner, and the cargo thereof, lately forfeited, and by the admiralty court in this colony condemned.

An Act for emitting more bills upon the credit of this colony, for and towards the carrying on the part by this government undertaken in the present expedition, for removing encroachments made by the French.

Whereas, it is very evident, that the sum of £60,000, in old tenor bills, ordered by the General Assembly, at their session, in Providence, the 6th day of March last, is altogether insufficient to defray the expense necessarily arising upon the government, with respect to that part which they have undertaken in the expedition above mentioned,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that for the purpose afore-

said, the sum of £40,000, in such bills as are above mentioned, be struck off, that is to say :

One half from the large, and the remainder, all but £10,000, from the small plate, lately used by this government ; that it be emitted upon the same foundation, and sunk in the same manner, and at the same periods of time with the said £60,000 ; that the small plate be new dated, with the addition of Crown Point, upon the back, and the bills signed by the committee that signed the said £60,000 ; that £10,000 of the £40,000 be struck off at one time ; and when that shall be expended, £10,000 more, and so on, until the whole £40,000 be emitted, if necessity require it.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that His Honor, the Deputy Governor, Daniel Jenckes, Esq., and the secretary, be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to represent this colony, and directed and fully empowered, to demand, sue for and take into possession, this colony's part of the French schooner, and her cargo, lately forfeited and condemned by the court of vice admiralty, in this colony ; and also the colony's part of all and every other vessel or vessels, cargo or cargoes, that may hereafter be forfeited.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that when the collectors of the rate made by this colony, return their warrants, and pay in the money collected, if it shall appear unto the general treasurer, that any sums that shall be in arrear, could not have been collected, he shall grant forth a new warrant or warrants, for collecting the same, returnable in one month.

Whereas, there was an act made and passed by the General Assembly, at their session in Providence, upon the 6th day of March, last, entitled " An act to restrain the sending provisions and warlike stores to Cape Breton, or any other French port, or settlement, in North America, which was to be, and continue in force until the first Wednesday of May, then next ensuing ; which said act was, by the General Assembly, at their session last month, revived and made to take effect, and

continue in force, with an addition thereunto, forbidding the collector, and every one under him, to clear out any vessel or vessels to Cape Breton, on any pretence, whatever; and that the same act, with the addition thereto made, as aforesaid, should be, and continue in force until the rising of this Assembly; and forasmuch, as the occasion of making and continuing said act, with the addition, aforesaid, still subsists,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act aforesaid, with the clause thereto added, be, and the same is hereby continued; and shall have and take force, and be of effect to all intents and purposes, until the rising of the General Assembly, at their next session.

And it is further enacted, that this act be forthwith published by the secretary; who is hereby directed to send a copy unto the collector's office.

Both of which, were accordingly done on the 12th day of this instant June, by  
THO. WARD, Secretary.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that John Tillinghast, Jeremiah Lippitt, Philip Greene, Daniel Jenckes and Job Randall, Esqs., be, and they hereby are constituted a committee, to form an act to determine and ascertain in what manner judgments made, and to be made up for sterling money, gold, silver, or paper bills, of any of the neighboring colonies, shall be satisfied, in such manner that the creditors may receive equal in value to what is due, and no more.

An Act for further continuing the present committee of war.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their last session, granted the committee of war full power and authority, during the recess of the General Assembly, to act, order, do and transact, all and every matter and matters, thing and things necessary and convenient to be ordered, done, or exe-

cuted, for effectually carrying into execution the part this government hath undertaken in the expedition intended to remove encroachments made by the French, upon the territories of our sovereign; and that as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as the General Assembly itself could, ought or might, were it actually sitting; which power and authority may seem to have been abrogated and annulled by this present session.

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the same power and authority be, and hereby is further continued unto the said committee of war; and they shall at all times have and enjoy the same, during the recess of the General Assembly, so long as the present expedition shall continue; they being always accountable for their conduct unto future General Assemblies.

God save the King.

*Secretary Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 19th June, 1755.

Gentlemen:—Having received no letters from you, since my last, of the 16th of April, I have only to acquaint you, that it is the express command of the lords justices, that you should not draw bills upon the paymaster general, or his deputy, or upon any other person; and that you should not issue any warrants for money, for the discharge of such expenses as have been, or may be incurred, on account of the services or operations to be performed by you, or in any respect under your direction, in North America.

But the lords justices are pleased to direct, that, upon all such occasions, you shall apply for such sums of money as shall so become necessary, and are not properly chargeable to the account of your government, to Major General Braddock, or to the commander in chief of His Majesty's forces for the time being, in North America.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Pownall to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, July the 15th, 1755.

Gentlemen:—It being for His Majesty's service, that the lords commissioners for trade and plantations should be fully informed of the present state and condition of

all His Majesty's colonies in North America, I am directed by their lordships to send you the enclosed heads of inquiry, and to desire you will forthwith transmit very full and particular answers thereto; and also a collection of the laws which have, from time to time, been passed, and are now in force, within the colony under your government.

I am, gentleman, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN POWNALL, Sec'y.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Queries relating to His Majesty's Plantations on the continent of America.*

1. What is the situation of the colony under your government, the nature of the government, the nature of the country, soil, and climate, the latitudes and longitudes of the most considerable places in it, or the neighboring French or Spanish settlements? Have those latitudes and longitudes been settled by good observations, or only by common computations, and from whence are the longitudes computed?
2. What are the reputed boundaries, and are any parts thereof disputed, what parts, and by whom?
3. What is the constitution of the government?
4. What is the trade of the colony, the number of shipping, their tonnage, and the number of sea-faring men, with the respective increase or diminution within ten years past.
5. What quantity and sorts of British manufactures do the inhabitants annually take from hence?
6. What trade has the colony under your government with any foreign plantations, or any part of Europe, besides Great Britain? How is that trade carried on? What commodities do the people under your government send to or receive from foreign plantations?
7. What methods are there used to prevent illegal trade, and are the same effectual?
8. What is the natural produce of the country, staple commodities and manufactures? and what value thereof in sterling money may you annually export?
9. What mines are there?
10. What is the number of inhabitants, whites and blacks?
11. Are the inhabitants increased or decreased within the last ten years, how much, and for what reasons?
12. What is the number of the militia?
13. What forts and places of defence are there within your government, and in what condition?
14. What number of Indians have you, and how are they inclined?
15. What is the strength of the neighboring Indians?
16. What is the strength of your neighboring Europeans, French or Spaniards?
17. What effect have the French or Spanish settlements on the continent of

America, upon His Majesty's plantations, especially upon your colony ?

18. What is the revenue arising within your government, and how is it appropriated ?

19. What are the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of your government ?

20. What are establishments, civil and military, within your government, and by what authority do the officers hold their places ?

It is desired that a return may be made to these queries every six months, that the board may from time to time be apprized of any alterations that may happen in the circumstances of your government ?

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on Monday, the 11th of August, 1755.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that three companies, of fifty men each, including officers, be forthwith raised, and supported at the charge of this colony, sent and joined unto the companies already raised and sent by this government unto Albany, upon the expedition against Crown Point; and Jeremiah Lippitt, Esq., the attorney general, George Brown, Esq., and the secretary be, and they are hereby constituted a committee, to draw up an act, accordingly.

“ We, the subscribers, dissent from the vote for raising one hundred and fifty men, to be added to those already raised for the expedition to Crown Point, for the following reason :

Because we are of opinion, that the four hundred men, formerly voted, are this colony's full quota ; and we are unwilling to load our constituents with a burthen that we think exceeds their ability to bear.

THOMAS ROGERS,

BENJ. ARNOLD,

WILLIAM SPENCER,

PHILIP GREENE, of West Greenwich.”

EDWARD SCOTT,

IMMANUEL NORTHUP,

SAMUEL DURFEE,

Whereas, James Sheffield, Esq., captain of Fort George, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the government, for monies by him disbursed in providing sundry necessaries for the public service at said fort; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said account be, and the same is hereby allowed; and that £41 6s. 4d., the amount thereof, be paid unto the said James Sheffield, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, this Assembly is informed by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor of the Massachusetts Bay, that it has been reported that vessels have sailed, and that others were fitting out from this government, designed to go among the French with provisions; \*—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that John Tillinghast, Immanuel Northup,

*\* From Lieut. Governor Phips, of Massachusetts, to Governor Hopkins, of Rhode Island.*

Boston, August 25, 1755.

Sir:—I am to acknowledge the receipt of Your Honor's letter of the 23d inst. I could not avoid acquainting you with the information which I had received, relating to the transportation of provisions to the French; and as I have no reason to suppose but that the gentleman who gave it was moved to do it by a concern for the public service, I think it would not be good policy to subject him to the odium or displeasure of any persons whatsoever; for at this critical juncture, too great encouragement cannot be given for the detecting any designs to supply the French. The enclosed letter, with the state of the town and garrison of Louisbourg, which I have just received from Admiral Boscawen, confirms me in this opinion, more fully than ever.

I do not apprehend that a charge against, or suspicion of any particular inhabitant can be construed as a reflection upon the colony in general; especially, as the government have shown their concern to prevent any such measures.

I have had good reason to suspect persons within this Province, and have been obliged to make inquiry into their conduct, and lay them under peculiar restraints; and have lately been informed that some schemes have been on foot to carry provisions from Martha's Vineyard, or some other parts of this government, near the borders of yours. If any such designs should come to Your Honor's knowledge, I doubt not you will give me immediate information of them.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

S. PHIPS.



Edward Scott and William Anthony, Jr., Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to make strict inquiry into the above mentioned affair, and make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Obadiah Brown, James Sheffield and Joseph Russell, Esqs., and Mr. Joseph Lippitt, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of the committee of war, and make report unto this Assembly as soon as possible.

An Act for raising and supporting three companies, of fifty men, each, including officers, to join the troops already sent by this government in the expedition against Crown Point.

Whereas, the defeat of the English army at, or near the Monongahela,\* may not only inspirit the French and their Indian allies, but give them an opportunity and the advantage of detaching such a part of their forces to the northward, as may render the success of the expedition under Major General Shirley against Niagara precarious, but frustrate that which this colony, in conjunction with some other of His Majesty's governments in North America are engaged in, against Crown Point, and thereby bring the English empire in those parts, into considerable danger; for preventing whereof, as far as lieth in the power of this colony,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that three companies, of fifty men, each, including officers, be forthwith raised and supported at the expense of this colony, under the command of such officers as shall be chosen and appointed for that purpose, and sent by land unto Albany, as fast as the companies can be filled up by

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\* [This refers to the celebrated defeat of the English forces under General Braddock, on the 9th July, 1755, when an attempt was made to invest Fort Du Quesne, (now Pittsburgh,) the stronghold of the French. Colonel, afterwards General Washington, acted on this occasion, as aid to General Braddock.—J. R. B.]

order of His Honor, the Governor; and from thence, to march with the utmost expedition, so as to join and be added unto the regiment already sent by this government against Crown Point, under the command of Col. Christopher Harris, before any action is entered upon, if possible.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, the officers to be chosen, shall have and receive the same wages, and enjoy equal immunities and advantages with those already sent; and every soldier to be raised, the same wages bounties and immunities in every respect, as were granted the soldiers of our aforesaid regiment.

And as a further encouragement, and for the more speedy raising men to form the three new companies, each soldier shall have and be allowed, upon his enlisting, a bounty of £25, old tenor, more than was allowed or granted unto the soldiers first raised in this colony.

And to the end that there may be a sufficiency in the general treasury, for raising men, paying bounties, supporting the troops, and other incident charges,—

Be it further enacted, that the sum of £20,000 be forthwith made and struck off from the plates which were used at the beginning of the expedition, and signed by the committee that signed those bills, and deposited with the general treasurer, to be taken, drawn out and used as occasion shall require.

And be it further enacted, that the bills so emitted, shall, pursuant to act of Parliament, be called in and sunk, within the space or term of two years from the passing this act, by a tax to be assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of this colony, in the same manner as the tax for sinking the £60,000, ordered to be made and struck off by the General Assembly, in March last.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £5,000, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, towards carrying on the building of Fort George; and in case the town of Newport shall, on their own proper account, grant the sum of £5,000 towards building said

fort, that £5,000 more be allowed and paid out of the general treasury for the purpose aforesaid, to be added unto the first mentioned £5,000.

An Act to prohibit provisions, or any intelligence from being carried to Cape Breton.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that if any master of a vessel or others, shall carry or convey any cattle, sheep or provisions, or warlike stores of any kind whatever, to the island of Cape Breton, or any other French port, or to any part of Newfoundland; or shall carry or convey any intelligence to said island of Cape Breton, or to the French in any other place, of the expeditions carrying on in America, against the French and Indians, on due conviction thereof, such offender or offenders shall stand in the pillory for the space of half an hour, and have his or their ears cut off, and pay as a fine, for the use of the colony, £5,000; and shall be also for ever after rendered infamous.

And to the end that no opportunity may be given to evil minded persons to contract for, and to export any provision or warlike stores, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, all His Majesty's peace officers in general, are hereby empowered and strictly required, to take notice of, and examine into the conduct of all strangers, and others who they have any reason to believe are about to do any thing contrary to this act; and if it shall appear to them needful, to secure any suspected person till he enter into recognizance, with good sureties, to do nothing contrary to this act; or if strangers, and can give no good account of themselves and business, forthwith to depart this colony; and this act shall be forthwith published, and be in force.

Whereas, the act of the General Assembly, made in March last, entitled "An act to restrain the sending provisions and warlike stores, to Cape Breton, or any other port or settlement belonging to the French, in North America," and continued by

several subsequent acts, until the rising of this Assembly, will necessarily expire without a further continuance ;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the above mentioned act, and every clause therein contained, with all such additions as have since at any time, been thereunto made, be, and hereby is continued, and shall have full force and effect, until such time as this Assembly shall otherwise order.

And be it further enacted, that no provisions of any kind whatever, fish only excepted, shall be exported out of this colony, in any ship or vessel, more than is barely sufficient for victualling such ship's company for the intended voyage ; and that if any person or persons shall presume to ship or put on board any ship or vessel a greater quantity of any kind of provisions than is above mentioned, the offender or offenders, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall forfeit all such provisions, together with the ship or vessel on board of which they are put or laded ; and all the other goods on board such ship or vessel, one half to the use of the colony, and the other half to him who shall inform and sue for the same.

Provided; nevertheless, and it is the true intent and meaning of this act, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the exporting from this colony any cheese, cattle, sheep, hogs, or fowls, being alive, with grain sufficient for their support on the voyage, to any English port, Newfoundland excepted ; provided bond be given agreeably to the above mentioned law, nor to obstruct the transporting provisions of any kind from this colony to Albany, for the use of the colony's forces, gone, or or to be sent on the expedition against Crown Point ; and this act shall be forthwith published, and be in force.

This, and the preceding act, were published according to order, the 15th day of August, 1755.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Thomas Cranston, James Sheffield and Benjamin Nichols, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby appointed and fully empowered to settle with Jahleel Brenton, Esq., the controversy which hath so long subsist-

ed between the colony and the said Jahleel Brenton, in the best manner they can, and receive what shall appear due unto the colony from him, giving a full discharge in the colony's behalf.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the following vessels shall be, and hereby are stopped from going to sea, until further orders, to wit :

Sloop Hannah, Jonathan Sheldon, master, for Barbadoes, with one hundred and twenty sheep, and one hundred geese.

Sloop Penguin, Job Snell, for Africa, one hundred and twenty casks, containing flour, beef, pork and butter.

Sloop Leopard, Edmund Jacklyn, for Barbadoes, two casks of rice, forty barrels of beef and pork, and twenty barrels of flour.

Bark Maggot, John Lance, for Barbadoes, forty barrels of beef and pork, sixty sheep and seven firkins of butter.

Sloop Molly, William Earl, for Jamaica, thirty barrels of flour, eighty sheep, and five barrels of ham.

Sloop Herring, Mathew Cozzens, for Jamaica, forty barrels of flour, twenty sheep, three tons of bread, five hundred weight of cheese, twenty casks of rice, and one hundred geese.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer of this colony, and the keeper of the office of the grand committee, prosecute all the deficient collectors of the rate lately assessed upon the inhabitants of this colony, in ten days after this present Assembly shall rise, to one or more special courts, as necessity may require, to be held in the respective counties where the rates are collected; and that all said prosecutors in behalf of the colony, have all the benefits and advantages of the law, that enables the justices of the inferior courts of common pleas to hold special courts on certain occasions.

Whereas, there are six vessels in the harbor of Newport, cleared out for foreign parts, having provisions on board, as appears by a list exhibited unto this Assembly, by the collector,—

This Assembly therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted

and resolved, that the committee of war be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered to take and detain, for the use of the government, so much of those provisions as they shall deem necessary to supply the troops by this Assembly ordered to be raised, and then give orders unto the captain of the fort to permit those vessels to go to sea.

Whereas, Jean Joyeux, Hubert Castendel and John Gazan, subjects of the French king, represented unto this Assembly, that they have, for several years last past, resided by times at Newport, whither they came with no other view than to trade with the English, in a friendly manner; that their last coming was purely to settle their affairs, pay the debts they had contracted, and then return unto their respective habitations; but that soon after their arrival, they were confined to their lodgings, and remained so ever since, which hath put it out of their power to settle their affairs; that during their confinement, they have preferred two petitions unto the committee of war, begging leave to go abroad, but unto such parts of the town only as their business should necessarily call them; that the said committee have not yet thought proper to grant the liberty desired; whereupon, they prayed this Assembly to grant them what they requested of the committee of war; on consideration whereof,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the petitioners have twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, allowed them, in order to settle their accounts; that they be, during that time, under the inspection of the committee of war, and then to depart this colony; and in case they shall not depart before nor at said time, that they be sent away by the committee of war; and that all other subjects of the French king, within this colony, depart the same within twenty days, or otherwise be sent away also by the committee of war.

And it is also further voted and resolved, that the collector of His Majesty's customs in Newport, be, and hereby is directed and empowered to oblige every master of a vessel bound to

sea, to carry away as many of said Frenchmen as the committee of war shall think proper, before he clear such vessel out.

The gentlemen that were appointed to inquire into the grounds of the rumor that vessels had sailed laden, and others fitting out from this colony, designed to go among the French with provisions, presented what follows, to wit:

“August 13, 1755.

To the House of Magistrates. Gentlemen :—Whereas, this Assembly is informed by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, that it has been reported that vessels have sailed, and others were fitting out from this government, designed to go among the French, with provisions ;—

It is therefore resolved, that Immanuel Northup, Edward Scott and William Anthony, Jr., Esqs., together with such others as shall be appointed by the upper house, be a committee to make strict inquiry into the above mentioned affair, and make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

Voted and passed, per order, JOSIAH LYNDON, Cl'k.”

Read, 14th of August, in the upper house, and concurred, with the addition of John Tillinghast, Esq., of this house.

By order, THOMAS WARD, Secretary.

*Report of the Committee.*

We, the subscribers, having made strict inquiry into the affair mentioned in the above vote, do report :

That John Lavigne, master of the sloop Ranger, bound to Antigua, one of the vessels that sailed in company with the snow in which the French Marquis embarked, has made oath, that he had on board only three barrels of pork, one barrel of beef, one barrel of mutton, and three tierces of bread ; that he intended to take on board twelve sheep, and three shoats ; and that he would not lade, or suffer to be laden on board said vessel, for the intended voyage, after clearing out, any other provisions than the above mentioned, as appears by a certificate in the collector's office, dated July 12, A. D. 1755, signed by Edward Scott, justice, &c. ; and Mr. John Collins, sole owner of said sloop, has, on engagement before us, de-

thority thereof it is enacted, that four companies, to consist of fifty men each, including officers, be forthwith raised and subsisted at the charge of the colony, to be added unto those already raised and ordered to be raised for the expedition against Crown Point; and that when said companies are raised, they be sent and joined unto the regiment of this government, under the command of Col. Christopher Harris; and that an act be drawn up accordingly, by a committee to be appointed by both houses.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Jeremiah Lippitt, William Richmond, Daniel Jenckes and Daniel Updike, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for raising four companies towards a reinforcement of the army gone against Crown Point, agreeably to the vote of this Assembly made and passed for that purpose.

An Act for raising two hundred men to reinforce the English army gone against Crown Point.

Whereas, by advices lately received from Major General Johnson, commander in chief of the provincial forces employed in the expedition against Crown Point, it appears that the French are in a condition to bring a much greater number of men to oppose that enterprise, than the colonies had at that time raised for carrying it on, which makes it absolutely necessary that large reinforcements be speedily sent unto our army; and as the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and the colony of Connecticut, have already ordered very large numbers of men to be immediately raised and employed in that service; and this colony is willing also to contribute in proportion to their ability, towards so necessary a measure,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that two hundred men be forthwith raised in this colony, to be disposed into four companies of fifty men each, including officers; and as soon as the said companies are respectively full, the committee of war immediately cause them to move forward and join the regiment al-



empowered to appoint another or others in his or their stead, that shall happen to die or refuse.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committee of war be, and hereby is clothed with, and shall have, take and exercise, in the recess of the General Assembly, all and singular the power and authority that was given or granted them by the act passed at the last session, for their further continuance; they being always accountable for their conduct unto future Assemblies.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 8th of September, 1755.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the company of soldiers raised in this colony, under the command of Capt. John Whiting, towards reinforcing the army, gone against Crown Point, be forthwith embarked and sent to Albany, on board the transport taken up in the government's service, for carrying provisions, &c., to that place; and that they proceed from Albany to join the army, in the same manner with the company that marched from Providence; and that the committee of war put on board said sloop, all such deserters as are, or shall be taken up before the departure of said sloop, rendering them unto the care of the said captain, in order to their being carried unto the several companies to which they belong respectively, and delivered unto the captains of the same.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the au-

thority thereof it is enacted, that four companies, to consist of fifty men each, including officers, be forthwith raised and subsisted at the charge of the colony, to be added unto those already raised and ordered to be raised for the expedition against Crown Point; and that when said companies are raised, they be sent and joined unto the regiment of this government, under the command of Col. Christopher Harris; and that an act be drawn up accordingly, by a committee to be appointed by both houses.

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Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that two hundred men be forthwith raised in this colony, to be disposed into four companies of fifty men each, including officers; and as soon as the said companies are respectively full, the committee of war immediately cause them to move forward and join the regiment al-

ready raised, and now in the service, under the command of Col. Christopher Harris.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the soldiers so to be raised, shall, upon their enlistment, receive each man a bounty of £40, and a good blanket, gratis; or, in lieu thereof, £8, if he furnish himself with one; and the officers shall have and receive the following monthly wages, viz :

Every captain, £100; every lieutenant, £60; every ensign, £50; every sergeant and drummer, £20; every corporal, £18; and each common soldier, £16; all which wages and bounties, shall be paid and given in old tenor bills of public credit; moreover, every officer and soldier shall have one month's pay advanced to him before he marches, and enjoy the same immunities and advantages which the soldiers already raised in this colony are allowed by the former acts.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that officers shall be forthwith chosen to command the said four companies; and in case any of them when chosen, shall refuse to take his office, or neglect to enter upon the duty of enlisting men forthwith, or shall die, that the committee of war shall appoint another or others in his or their stead; and all and every of said officers shall be commissioned by His Honor, the Governor, in the same manner and form as the former officers were; and shall use their best endeavors to enlist as many able bodied men as possible in any part of the colony, for the making up their respective companies, until the 22d day of this instant September, when they shall make a proper and exact return of their enlistment unto the committee of war; and if it shall happen that the companies are not filled up at said time, the committee of war shall forthwith cause the number of men wanted to be immediately impressed, according to the following proportion as near as may be, viz :

The regiment of the county of Newport, seventy.

The regiment of the county of Providence, fifty-five.

The regiment of the county of Kings county, forty-eight.

The regiment of the county of Kent, twenty-seven.

Nevertheless, of the twenty men already enlisted, sixteen

shall be assigned to the county of Kings county, and four to the county of Kent, as part of their proportion ; and when return is made of the number of men necessary to complete the said four companies, the committee of war, or any two of them, shall forthwith give orders to the respective field officers of the regiments aforesaid, to cause an impress to be made immediately, as near as may be in equal proportion, according to the number of soldiers in the several trained bands in their respective regiments ; and this proportion shall be settled by the field officers in each regiment, according to the muster rolls of the several companies, which they shall cause to be laid before them, and sworn unto by the clerks ; and thereupon, the principal field officer, in each regiment, shall issue warrants, directed to the several captains in his regiment, requiring them forthwith to cause to be impressed the number of able bodied men respectively deficient, as aforesaid ; and requiring all the other officers and soldiers in his regiment, to be aiding and assisting therein ; and officers that shall refuse or omit to perform the duties hereby enjoined, shall incur the following forfeitures, to be recovered in bills of credit, of the old tenor, by bill, plaint, or information, in any court of record, within this colony, viz. :

Every field officer, £500 ; every captain, lieutenant and ensign, £200 ; and every sergeant and corporal, £100 ; and immediately after the number deficient is impressed, return shall be made unto the committee of war.

And every man impressed, as aforesaid, shall be obliged to attend the King's service, in the said expedition, upon the penalty of £100, old tenor, to be recovered as aforesaid ; or shall find a good able bodied man to attend the service in his stead ; and every man impressed, as aforesaid, shall afterwards have liberty to enlist as a volunteer ; all which forfeitures and penalties made and recovered, as aforesaid, shall be disposed of to the colony's use ; and that His Honor, the Governor, forthwith issue warrants, requiring the field officers to conform themselves unto this act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

all enlisting officers shall, upon the day appointed for making return of their enlistments, report the number of small arms wanted, unto the committee of war, who shall hire or give orders for impressing them, according to their discretion.

And be it further enacted, that in case there shall be at the time of marching, any deficiency in the number of soldiers, by sickness, death or desertion, the committee of war shall cause it to be supplied in manner aforesaid, according to their discretion; and shall have power, if any be not duly qualified for the service when impressed, to grant him or them, a release, and cause another or others to be taken in his or their stead.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all who have deserted from the army shall be forgiven, in case they surrender themselves unto the committee of war, and again return to their duty before the troops by this act ordered to be raised, shall move forward; and hereof, the committee of war shall forthwith set up public advertisements.

And to the end that there may be a sufficiency in the general treasury for raising said men, paying the bounties and defraying other incident charges,—

Be it further enacted, that the sum of £60,000, old tenor, be forthwith struck off from the plates before used in this expedition, and signed by the committee that signed the former bills, and lodged in the treasurer's office, to be drawn out by the committee of war, and used as occasion may require.

And be it further enacted, that the bills so emitted, shall, pursuant to act of Parliament, be called in and sunk within the space of two years from the passing this act, by a tax, to be assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of this colony, in the same manner as the money last made for carrying on this expedition, is to be called in and sunk.

**An Act to prevent the desertion of the forces raised and to be raised in this colony, for the expedition against Crown Point.**

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all magistrates, justices of the

peace, sheriffs and their deputies, all constables, and other civil officers, and all military officers, and all other persons whatever, shall have power and authority to apprehend any person or persons in the King's service, that have or shall desert therefrom, and cause him or them to be committed to any of His Majesty's jails in this colony, in order to be sent by some one of the committee of war unto the army, if the same can be done ; but if not, such deserter or deserters shall be imprisoned until the return of the forces, and then to be tried and punished for such desertion, by martial law ; and all deserters from the aforesaid army, that were enlisted in the neighboring governments, shall, if found in this colony, be apprehended in like manner, and sent to the governments where they respectively belong.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whoever shall receive, or entertain in his, her, or their house, any such deserter, or deserters, or shall employ him or them to labor, or give, or sell him or them any victuals, or other sustenance, or shall conceal, or neglect to apprehend and deliver him or them to the authority, if in his, her, or their power, knowing such person or persons to have been guilty of desertion, as aforesaid, they shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of £60, old tenor, unto and for the use of this colony ; to be recovered in any court of record, by bill, plaint, or information.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons appearing in a common character, shall be permitted to travel within this colony, save in the county where such traveller or travellers actually dwell, without a pass, under the hand of a justice of the peace or some superior officer, in this or the neighboring governments.

And His Honor, the Governor, is desired to correspond with the governors of the Massachusetts Bay, and Connecticut, and agree with them upon some method of procuring constant intelligence from the army gone against Crown Point.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, the fol-

lowing officers were chosen to command the four companies now ordered to be raised, as a further reinforcement of the army, now gone against Crown Point, under the command of Major General Johnson, to wit :

Daniel Bosworth, captain ; Christopher Hargil, lieutenant ; and William Nichols ensign of the first (which will be the eighth) company in the service of this colony, for the expedition, aforesaid.

John Potter, Jr., captain ; William Richmond, Jr., lieutenant ; and James Tew, Jr., ensign, of the second (which will be the ninth) company, and is to be raised part in the county of Newport, and part in the county of Kent.

Robert Hopkins, captain ; Ebenezer Cahoone, lieutenant ; and Giles Russel, ensign of the third (which will be the tenth) company.

Barzillai Richmond, captain ; Ebenezer Jenckes, lieutenant ; and Nathaniel Peck, ensign, of the fourth (which will be the eleventh) company, and is to be raised in the county of Providence.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer forthwith raise £5,000 of the colony's money, which he has let to Jeoffrey Watson, Esq., and deliver the same unto the committee appointed to re-build Fort George, agreeably to the act of the last Assembly.

Whereas, Joseph Scott, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the government, for his time, expenses and horse hire in apprehending Peleg Barker, of Tiverton, searching his house for counterfeit bills, and bringing him to Newport, in order to an examination ; and for money disbursed, in paying two men for their time and horse hire, to aid him in that matter ; and for his time, horse hire and expenses in two journeys to Mendon, to apprehend people that had been concerned in counterfeiting bills of credit emitted by this colony, for money paid unto officers and sundry other persons that assisted him therein ; for searching after, and finding the plates, and for his

expenses in putting up the pillory for, and taking it down, after cutting the ears of Joshua Reed, and treating his aid, &c. ; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said account be, and the same is hereby allowed ; and that £125 6s., the amount thereof, be paid the said Joseph Scott, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Capt. Job Bennett, Jr., exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the government, for his time, horse hire and expenses, when after persons suspected to have been concerned in counterfeiting the Crown Point £16 bills, emitted by this colony ; and in apprehending Joseph Monroe and Joshua Reed, for money advanced to sundry officers who assisted him in that business ; and for money advanced, to have the pillory put up for, and taken down, after cropping Monroe, Ide and Win, and treating his aid ; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said account be, and the same is hereby allowed ; and that £52 7s., the amount thereof, be paid the said Job Bennett, Jr., out of the general treasury.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that every master of a vessel that may be fired at by Fort George, shall pay £5, in old tenor bills of credit, for every shot, to be applied unto the use of the colony ; and upon neglect or refusal to pay the same, shall be subject to a prosecution from the captain of the fort, for the time being, agreeably to the set forms now used in the courts of law, in this colony.

God save the King.

*Governor Shirley to Major General Johnson.*

Camp at Oswego, Sept. 19th, 1755.

Sir :—Three days ago, I received a letter from Mr. Stevenson, of Albany, enclosing a copy of the general letter, which you have sent to Lieutenant Governor Phipps, and the governors of the other colonies, which have raised forces for the expedition against Crown Point, giving an account of two actions, which happened



on the 10th instant, between the army under your command, and the French; in the first of which, a detachment of one thousand English, commanded by Col. Williams, and a party of two hundred Indians of the Six Nations, were defeated, with a considerable loss on their side; in the second, the French, &c., their Indians attacked the main body of your army in their camp, at Lake George, and were repulsed with a considerable one on theirs.

Mr. Stevenson informs me, that upon finding I had no letter directed to me among the packets, which came from your camp, and discovering the words upon the seal side of that directed to Governor Phips, "Please to despatch a copy of this letter to General Shirley, my time and circumstances won't permit my writing to him immediately," he opened it, and took a copy of it, to be sent forthwith to me; and as the events contained in it, so nearly concern His Majesty's service, under my immediate command, as well as his other service upon this continent, under my direction, I can't avoid expressing my surprise at your omission to acquaint me with them directly from yourself; which, let your hurry and circumstances be what they would, you might at least have done by ordering your secretary or any clerk, to transcribe a copy of your letter to the governors, to be sent me from Albany, instead of desiring Lieut. Governor Phips to send me one from Boston.

What could be your reason for postponing my being acquainted with these matters, which I ought to have known as soon as possible, to so distant a time, as my hearing from Mr. Phips must have been, seems difficult to say.

However that may be, my duty to His Majesty requires me to take the first opportunity of transmitting you my sentiments upon the present state of the service, which I have put under your immediate direction.

Upon the statement of your letter to the several governors, sir, it appears to me that the late defeat of the French forces and their Indians in the engagement at your camp, hath given you a favorable opportunity of proceeding, as soon as the expected reinforcements from New England shall join you at Ticonderoga; which post, since you have taken the route to Crown Point, that you have done, it is of the utmost consequence to the success of the expedition under your command, to make yourself master of as soon as possible.

By the account given in the copy of the minutes of your council of war, enclosed to me in your letter of the 1st instant, of the strength of your army a few days before the late actions, and in your letter to the governors, of the loss you have sustained in both engagements, the number of your remaining troops must, upon the arrival of your reinforcement from New England, exceed four thousand; and that of your Indians, be upwards of two hundred.

From the account given you by the French general, your prisoner, of the strength of his army, in the beginning of the first action, it consisted of two hundred grenadiers, eight hundred Canadians and seven hundred Indians, of different nations; and from the account given you by his aid-de-camp of the loss of the French and the Indians, in both actions, and the pursuit which ensued, they lost in the whole one thousand men, and the major part of their chief officers, together with Monsieur Pierre, the officer who had the chief command and greatest influence over the Indians; so that according to their accounts, which seem most to be depended upon, the French had not above seven hundred men left of their whole army, which attacked your camp.

In these actions, sir, you have experienced the good behaviour of your officers and troops, who must be now flushed with their late victory; the French, on

the other hand, must be greatly disconcerted by the late defeat of their army, and loss of their general, and so many of their principal officers; and the French Indians, in particular (which consists of different nations), by the loss of Monsieur St. Pierre, who seems to have been a necessary officer for keeping them together.

You had before acquainted me, in your letter of the 1st instant, from your camp, at Lake George, that "some Indians, you \* \* \* sent out \* \* \* on the scout, told you, they had discovered a party of French and Indians, at Ticonderoga; but that no works were thrown up then; and that you was impatient to get a number of batteaux up, and put in order; when you proposed to proceed with a part of the troops, and endeavor to take post at Ticonderoga."

I hope, sir, if that is not yet done, that you still propose doing it, as soon as possible; the necessity of driving the enemy from that pass, still continues; the longer time is given them to fortify it, the more difficult it will be to dislodge them, and the more you will lose the advantage, which their defeat, and your own victory have given you to effect it.

You say in your letter to the governors, "Your men have suffered so much fatigue for three days past, and are constantly standing upon the arms by day, half the whole upon guard every night, and the rest lay down armed and accoutred, that both officers and men are almost worn out; that the enemy may rally, and you judge they have considerable reinforcements near at hand; so that you think it necessary to be on your guard, and be watchful to maintain the advantage, you have gained."

To make the most of the advantage you have gained, it seems clear, sir, that you should make use of the opportunity it hath given you, of proceeding upon your expedition, whilst the spirits of your army are elated with success, and those of the enemy lowered by the loss of the greatest part of theirs.

As to your apprehensions, that the enemy might rally, and that they had considerable reinforcements near at hand; it is mentioned in your letter, that your men and Indians pursued the French soon after their repulse, slaughtered great numbers, and took several prisoners, among whom, was the French general, himself; so that their army was entirely routed, and yours master of the field; rallying the second day after so general a rout as this, is, I believe, unknown in the case even of great armies; and that the small remains of the French army should return the next day to the attack of your camp, where they had so lately felt the effects of your cannon against their musketry, seems not much to be apprehended; it is more probable, that the slaughter they had suffered in the pursuit, with their loss of most of their chief officers, will in the end occasion, if not a total dissipation of the Indians, yet at least a great desertion among them, and of the Canadians, too.

Upon what foundation you judge that the French army had considerable reinforcements near at hand, is not mentioned in your letter; it seems more likely, that they sent all the forces they could spare, from Ticonderoga and Crown Point (where you say so many of the regular troops were posted) to attack your camp; especially as they were to do it only with musketry.

You say, further, in your letter to the governors, "that from the papers of Monsieur Dieshau, the French general, you find, he brought under his command in the men of war lately arrived at Quebec, three thousand one hundred and seventy-one

regular troops, who are partly in garrisons at Crown Point, and encamped at Ticonderoga, and other advantageous passes between your camp and Crown Point.

That you expect very shortly, another and more formidable attack; and that the enemy will then come with artillery; that Col. Williams had the ground cleared for building a stockaded fort; and that your men are so harrassed, and obliged to be so constantly upon watchful duty, that you think it would be both unreasonable, and, as you fear, in vain to set them at work upon the designed fort.

That you design to order the New Hampshire regiment up to your camp, to reinforce you; and that you hoped some of the designed reinforcements would be with you in a few days; and that when those fresh troops arrived, \* \* \* you should immediately set about building a fort."

I hope you will, before now, have received my letter of the 12th instant, in which I sent you an account from Admiral Boscawen's letter to the late General Brad-dock, of the number of troops which were sent from France this summer, to North America, and what part of them arrived in Canada; which will show you that there must be some mistake in the above account extracted by you from Monsieur Dieshau's papers, of the number of those which arrived with him at Quebec.

It is clear from this account, that the whole number sent from France, was, as M. Dieshau's papers make them to be, about three thousand; and by other undoubted accounts, as well as the admiral's, that of these, he took eight companies in the Alcide and Lys men of war; and that eleven hundred are in garrison at Louisbourg.

Now supposing that the remainder arrived at Quebec, without any loss in their passage (which is not very likely), the most that got to Quebec, must be sixteen hundred and seventy-one; five hundred at least of which, I have intelligence from Indians, who came here from Cadaraqui, at different times within these five weeks, and a party of Indians and Albany men, whom I sent there since that time, are now encamped close to that fort; and a number of them were killed (according to your own account,) in the late attack upon your camp and the pursuit which ensued; so that the remainder, supposing them to be now, as you say, partly in garrison at Crown Point, and encamped at Ticonderoga, and other advantageous passes between your camp and Crown Point, can't amount to near the number which you seem to think are there.

I can't therefore but think you may spare from the fort at the Carrying Place, and from your camp at Lake George, a body of troops more than sufficient to drive the French from Ticonderoga, and possess yourself of that pass; and hope you will lose no time in doing it.

If Crown Point is inaccessible to the army now with you, through the route you have taken to it, it will probably be more so to double the number of troops the next year, and must be come at through another route; in which case, the fort you design to build at the end of the lake, will be of little or no utility for carrying on another expedition, and but of very little, even for the defence of the country between Lake George, late St. Sacrament, and Hudson's River, whilst two roads lie open for the French to make incursions into it, viz.: through Wood Creek and the South Bay; the latter of which, they have lately made use of, to come at both your camps.

As to your expectation of a more formidable attack very shortly from the enemy, and that they will then come with artillery; I suppose that artillery must be brought from Crown Point or Ticonderoga; and if the French should imagine that you design

to attempt nothing further this campaign, than building the stockaded fort, you propose, I think it probable enough that they make you a visit at your camp with cannon ; in which case, I doubt your fort, when built, would not stand long.

But I believe the thoughts of the French are at present taken up in securing themselves against a visit from you at Crown Point ; which I hope may be still made them this year, with success ; and that to enable you the better to do it, the colonies may send you a second reinforcement in time.

I am sorry to hear that you received a wound in the late engagement, and hope that the ball is by this time extracted from your thigh, and your wound is in a fair way of healing ; I congratulate you upon your success, hitherto, and wish it may be increased in the remaining operations of the campaign ; and am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To Major General Johnson.

*Governor Shirley to Major General Johnson.*

Camp at Oswego, September 24th, 1755.

Sir:—Yesterday afternoon, I received your letter, dated 9th instant, being a copy of that to the several governors of the several colonies concerned in the expedition under your command ; and the same with what Mr. Stevenson transcribed from your letter to Governor Phips, and sent me seven days ago, as you will perceive by mine to you of the 19th instant.

In your last, I received enclosed, a copy of the orders and instructions for the regular troops sent to Cadaraqui, which are a confirmation of the intelligence I sent you in my last, viz. : that five hundred of the regular troops, which came from France, with Mr. Dieshau, are encamped at the fort there. It appears, also, by those instructions, that there were at least one hundred and sixty-six Canadians sent with them on the 1st and 2d of August last ; and that a number of Indians are there, likewise.

By the express, which delivered me your letter, I received one dated the 10th instant, from Capt. Ayre, your engineer, informing me of the strength of the fort built at the Carrying Place ; \* \* \* “that with a garrison of three or four hundred men, would be able to resist an attack of fifteen hundred, if no cannon were brought against it ; and that in his opinion, it is very necessary that a strong and regular work should be erected at Lake George, to keep possession of that country, so far ; that if the French can seize and take the before mentioned work at the Carrying Place, he fears it would be attended with bad consequences ; as it would cut off your retreat and communication with Albany, and totally stop your reinforcements and provisions, from joining you, if another road cannot be found, which he believes is not easy to be met with ; that he thinks what induced the French, or may induce them hereafter to attack you at Lake George, is fearing that you would not attempt to go any further, and so were resolved to call you off, before you returned ; and seems to infer from thence that the enemy must be so formidable, as to make it unadvisable for you to proceed further ; and concludes with extolling the gallantry and resolution of the French troops in their late attack of you.”

I agree, sir, in sentiments with your engineer, concerning the bad consequences

of the enemy's taking the fort at the Carrying Place, and am {much} concerned at the weakness of its works ; especially, as both yourself and he, are [apprehensive of another attack at Lake George, with cannon.

If I was in your situation, my chief apprehensions would be, that the French would make an attempt upon that fort with cannon, which they might transport thither as easily as to Lake George ; and I think you judged extremely right in sending a detachment of one thousand men to its support, upon the first alarm of the enemy's being upon their march towards it ; and for my own part, I must own, I should have thought it a better piece of conduct, in M. Dieshau, if, after defeating the party under Col. Williams's command, he had attacked the fort at the Carrying Place, instead of your camp ; which, according to your engineer's account of it, might have been more easily won, with the force he had with him, than had your camp been stormed.

I can by no means adopt your engineer's opinion of the urgent necessity of immediately erecting a strong regular fort at Lake George, for maintaining possession of the country so far. In my opinion, the most material place for erecting the strongest works, is at the other end of the Carrying Place (at or near where the fort lately built, stands), which is about seventeen miles distant from it. It seems to me that a regular strong fort there, would be a much more essential one for covering the country against the attacks of the French, from the river Champlain, through the three several routes that lead from thence to it, than one at Lake George, which would leave it uncovered in two of those routes ; besides, how could a fort at Lake George, be supported, when its communication with Albany was cut off, which, as your engineer rightly observes, would most probably be the case, if the French should take our fort at the Carrying Place.

I would therefore recommend it to you in the strongest manner, as an object which deserves your attention, to have the \* \* \* \* fort at the Carrying Place strengthened as much as the circumstances of your army will admit, consistent with your proceeding directly to Ticonderoga.

As to the formidable strength of the enemy, you will have to encounter in your march thither, I have told you my sentiments at large in my last letter ; and with regard to the gallant behaviour of their troops in the late actions, I must own, I differ widely in opinion from your engineer ; their retreat was a very bad one, without conduct or resolution ; they could not otherwise have suffered so great a slaughter as you say they did, in the short pursuit made of them by your troops and Indians, which jumped over the barricade of your camp after them.

The more I think of your situation, the more advisable I think it will be for you to proceed to Ticonderoga ; as the honor of His Majesty's arms and the interest of the colonies seem to require it. The consequences, I fear, will be bad, if you do not ; and I can't but hope that you will see these matters in the same light which I view them in.

The weak condition which I found this place in, and our want of dry provisions, have hitherto inevitably hindered me from proceeding in the expedition under my command ; but both these obstacles will, I hope, be so far surmounted in three days, as to permit me to do it.

I wish you a speedy recovery of your wound, and much success ; and am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To Major General Johnson.

P. S. Be pleased to communicate this to Capt. Ayre ; I have not time to write to him before I sail.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Camp at Oswego, September 25th, 1755.

Sir :—Your Honor hath already had an account from Major General Johnson, of the late actions at and near his camp, at Lake George, late Lake Sacrament ; and you have my sentiments upon the situation of the service under his command, contained in the two enclosed copies of letters to him from me, dated the 19th and 24th instant.

As I was the first proposer of the expedition against Crown Point to the several colonies concerned in raising forces for it, and have been a principal promoter of its being carried into execution, I have it the more at heart, that the issue of it should be for His Majesty's service, the honor of his arms, and welfare of his colonies ; all which are deeply interested in the succeeding operations of this campaign against the French in this expedition, and make it my indispensable duty to contribute my utmost endeavors for having those operations conducted in the best manner, to answer those important ends.

The weak condition in which I found this place, and want of dry provisions, have hitherto put it out of my power to proceed from hence upon the expedition under my own immediate command ; but as those obstacles are now in some measure removed, make it advisable for me to move, which I purpose to do in three days, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, and hope to return to this place in thirty days from that time.

The settlement of every thing here before I go, and my preparations to embark, will not permit me to enlarge now upon the service of the other expedition, so must beg leave to refer Your Honor \* \* \* \* to the enclosed copies, and to recommend it to the care of the several governments concerned, from whom I flatter myself General Johnson hath or will soon receive such further reinforcements as may absolutely secure the success of his attempt against the French encroachments at Crown Point this year.

I am, sir, with great regard, &c.,

W. SHIRLEY.

To Governor Hopkins.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Wednesday in October, 1755.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that two commissioners be appointed

on the part of this colony, to meet commissioners of the other governments at New York, in order to consider the state and circumstances of said governments, with regard to the encroachments of the French, &c., and that an act be drawn up accordingly.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, and the attorney general be, and they are hereby constituted a committee to prepare a bill for appointing commissioners on the part of this colony to meet commissioners of the other governments, to consider the state of said governments, in respect to the encroachments of the French, and present the same to this Assembly as soon as possible.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Cook, Philip Greene and George Brown, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to audit Daniel Jenckes Esq. and Mr. Elisha Brown, their accounts of the charges of finishing the new jail in Providence; and that the said committee give an order upon the general treasurer, for such part of the money that shall appear to be due to the said Jenckes and Brown, as said committee shall think proper, and make report to this Assembly at their next session.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Obadiah Brown, James Sheffield and Josiah Russel, Esqs., together with Mr. Joseph Lippitt, who were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the committee of war, be, and they are hereby further continued a committee for that purpose; and that any two of them, be, and are hereby authorized and fully empowered to audit the accounts of His Honor, the Governor and Daniel Jenckes, Esq., and make report unto this Assembly at their next session.

Whereas, Major Ebenezer Brenton, and many others, inhabitants of South Kingstown and parts adjacent, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that the fishery in Point Judith Pond, so called, which is of vast importance, not only to the inhabitants of the town aforesaid, and others in the vicinity thereof, but also to the town of Newport, and all

the western part of this colony, is like to be utterly destroyed, without a suitable provision to prevent people from fishing with seines in the breach and channel of said pond, at all seasons; by which the course of the fish is daily obstructed, and if not speedily prevented will be totally turned some other way, to the great damage not only of said town, but of the greater part of this colony; that although there is a law in that case made and provided, well adapted to remedy the inconveniences aforesaid, save that the fine is not proportionate to the damage that is daily sustained by the breach thereof; for that forty shillings, the fine now stated, will never prevent the drawing a seine, where the drawers are morally assured to gain a sufficient profit over and above said fine, even if it should be levied upon them; and thereupon the petitioners prayed that the fine, in the act above mentioned, be augmented to £50; on consideration, whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the fine in the act made and passed by the General Assembly, at their session in Newport, on the second Monday in June, 1736, be, and is hereby augmented to £50; that is to say, where it relates to the fishery of the pond, aforesaid.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the committee of war be, and hereby is further continued, and vested with all and singular the power and authority that hath at any time heretofore been granted them.

An Act appointing and empowering commissioners in behalf of this colony, to meet with His Excellency, Major General Shirley, commander in chief of all His Majesty's forces in North America, and the commissioners that may be appointed by the other northern colonies.

Whereas, the numerous encroachments made by the French on the undoubted dominions of His Britannic Majesty, our most gracious sovereign, in North America, hath necessitated the colonies to rise in their own defence, and endeavor to re-



move such dangerous neighbors to a greater distance ; and as the disunited state of the English colonies, is such as renders it impracticable for them to exert their natural strength against the common enemy in any other manner than that of a general meeting by representatives, to consult and provide means for their common defence and safety ; therefore, and to contribute towards so salutary a measure, as far the abilities of this colony will admit,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, and Daniel Updike, Esq., be, and they are hereby chosen and appointed commissioners for, and in behalf of this colony, with full power and authority to appear and represent the same at any meeting of the commissioners of the other British northern colonies, with His Excellency, above named ; and with them to concert proper measures for quartering, subsisting, furloughing, or discharging the provincial troops now in the field ; to concert proper measures that the campaign may be rendered successful this year, or in the next spring ; to contrive and establish proper ways and means for supplying the present or any future provincial armies with provisions and other necessaries ; to agree upon, and settle the proportion and quota of this and the other colonies, concerned in the present expedition against Crown Point, for and towards the said expedition ; and to agree upon a joint application unto His Majesty, for the obtaining such assistance to his colonies as may enable them to repel their common enemy, and put in execution such measures as will effectually establish the peace and tranquility of His Majesty's good subjects in North America ; and in case no such general convention of the representatives of the governments in North America shall be had, that the commissioners above named, shall have, and hereby is granted them equal authority to meet and act at any convention of the governments immediately concerned in the expedition against Crown Point, that shall be agreed upon, and that as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes as are herein before expressed ; and His Honor, the Governor, is requested to cause the needful



the general treasury, for defraying the charge of the present expedition; and the remaining £30,000 towards sinking the outstanding bills of credit, made and emitted to supply the treasury, for defraying the charge of former expeditions.

And it is further enacted, that the assessors or rate-makers, upon their assessing or apportioning the aforesaid tax, return a true bill or list thereof, to the town clerk of the town to which they respectively belong, within fifty days after this Assembly rises; and that said town clerk send a copy thereof to the general treasurer, in ten days; who, upon receipt thereof, shall issue forth his warrant in ten days, to the several collectors of rates of the respective towns, commanding them, in His Majesty's name, to collect the several sums to them respectively committed, in bills of public credit of this colony, within five months after the rising of this Assembly; and to pay the same to him, or his successor in said office, to be burnt, and discharge part of the colony's debts as above mentioned.

And it is further enacted, that each respective town shall pay all the charges and fees that shall arise in assessing and collecting its part of the aforesaid tax; and that the secretary send a copy of this act in print, to every town clerk in the colony, within twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, to be by them immediately delivered to the assessors of each respective town.

God save the King.

*Lieut. Governor Phips, of Massachusetts, to Governor Hopkins, of Rhode Island.*

Boston, October 29th, 1755.

Sir:—The present state of the army, designed against Crown Point, has been under the consideration of the General Assembly several days past, and the report of a committee has been accepted by the court, a copy of which I herewith transmit to Your Honor; and in consequence of said vote, three gentlemen, viz.: James Minot, John Choate and Samuel Livermore, Esqs., have been chosen and approved of, and will set out for Albany in two or three days; and I must earnestly urge Your Honor that some gentlemen may likewise repair thither from your government; for the great remora to the proceeding of the army seems to have been

the failure of transportation, which may prove as fatal to the service, if any one government fails in their peculiar part, as if there should be a failure in all.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

S. PHIPS.

To the Hon. Governor Hopkins.

*Secretary Pownall to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, November 4th, 1755.

Gentlemen:—The postmaster general having, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, provided vessels for the carrying on a regular monthly correspondence with His Majesty's American colonies, I am directed by the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, to acquaint you therewith; and that the first of these vessels will be despatched for the continent on the 15th of this month, to go and return between Falmouth and New York where the first vessel is to remain twenty days; and as it is of great importance to His Majesty's service, that their lordships should have frequent and certain intelligence of the true state of all His Majesty's colonies and plantations in America, their lordships desire that you will not fail of acquainting them, by the return of every packet, with all public occurrences which may happen in the colony under your government; and likewise transmit to their lordships all such public papers as are required to be transmitted.

I am, gentleman, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN POWNALL, Sec'ry.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Robinson to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 11th November, 1755.

Gentlemen:—The accounts which have been transmitted to me of the success of His Majesty's arms, in the action near Lake George, on the 8th of September, and of the considerable reinforcements sent by the New England governments, to General Johnson, which there is great reason to hope will effectually enable him to pursue the advantage he has gained, and to recover and support His Majesty's just rights, have been laid before His Majesty; and I have received the King's commands to express to you His Majesty's sense of the great zeal and spirit, which the colony under your government has so strongly manifested, in so cheerfully and effectually promoting this necessary and important service.

His Majesty, at all times desirous of showing marks of his royal favor and regard to those who eminently distinguish themselves in the defence of his rights, and in their country's service, is pleased to order that this letter be communicated to the Council and Assembly of your government; and that they be acquainted that His Majesty will take an early opportunity of laying the particulars of their meritorious conduct, upon this great occasion, before his Parliament; and as His Majesty is sensible that the expenses which the New England colonies have incurred, though cheerfully borne, cannot but have been burthensome to his brave and good subjects, His

Majesty will at the same time recommend to his Parliament to grant them such assistance, in consideration of the charges they have borne, as their circumstances shall require, and as will enable them vigorously to pursue the great and necessary work, which has been so cheerfully undertaken, and hitherto conducted with so much spirit, zeal and resolution.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

T. ROBINSON.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

P. S. I have received Mr. Hopkins's letter of April 17th.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the 22d day of December, 1755.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, Capt. Benjamin Wickham and Daniel Jenckes, Esq., Col. Benoni Waterman and the attorney general, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to take into consideration the matters and things contained in the letter sent this colony, by the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, and prepare an answer unto the same, and present it unto this Assembly as soon as they can.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that one hundred of the best men be selected, with suitable officers, out of the troops of this colony, returned and returning from the expedition against Crown Point; that the remainder be forthwith discharged; and that His Honor, the Governor, Capt. Benjamin Wickham, Daniel Jenckes, Esq., and Col. Benoni Waterman and the attorney general be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same unto this Assembly as soon as may be.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the committee of

war be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered to draw as much money out of the office of the grand committee, as may be necessary to pay off all the soldiers, and clothe such of them as shall be selected as abovesaid; that the said committee of war order and direct as much money as will be necessary to replace the bills so taken out of the office, aforesaid, to be struck off as soon as possible; and that said bills, when struck off, be signed by the committee that signed the last bills.

And it is further voted and resolved, that all and every of the said hundred soldiers to be selected, as aforesaid, shall be clothed and appareled suitable for the winter season.

Whereas, His Honor, the Governor, and the other gentlemen that were appointed a committee to take into consideration the matters and things contained in the letter from the lords of trade and plantations, have prepared an answer to said letter, and presented it unto this Assembly; which being duly considered,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said draught be, and the same is hereby accepted; and His Honor, the Governor, is requested to fill up the blank in it; and when that is done, to sign and send two copies thereof, to Great Britain, with two profiles of the fort; two plans of the harbor of Newport, and two copies of the list that contains the number of inhabitants, small arms, &c., in this colony, with letters to the agent, by the two first opportunities.\*

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., and Capt. Peter Harrison, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a plan of the harbor of Newport, and a profile of Fort George; that Mr. Bours send the same unto His Honor, the Governor, as soon as possible; together with the returns of the number of the inhabitants, small arms, &c., that shall be sent into the sec-

\* There is no copy of this letter in the archives of the secretary of state.

retary's office ; and that they, the said Peter Bours and Peter Harrison, put marks upon such places of the said plan as they may think necessary to be fortified.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Henry Harris, Esq., Mr. Thomas Steere and Col. Resolved Waterman, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee, to run the dividing line between the towns of Scituate and Glocester ; and make report unto the General Assembly, at the charge of said towns.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the masters of all those apprentices and servants that enlisted into the service of this colony in the expedition against Crown Point, shall have and receive all the wages that shall be due at the time of their being discharged, for the pay of said servants and apprentices, after a deduction is made for clothes and other things by them received.

An Act for retaining one hundred and eighty-five of the troops raised, and now in the service of this colony, for subsisting, clothing and paying them whilst in His Majesty's service, and for disbanding and paying off the remainder.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that seventy-two of the forces raised in this colony, for the late expedition against Crown Point, be retained in His Majesty's service, at the charge of the colony, until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known, for garrisoning the two forts lately built on the frontiers of the colony of New York, and called Fort Edward, and Fort William Henry.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that one hundred men, exclusive of officers, be selected out of the aforesaid troops, and as are fittest for service, and are most willing, be retained and continued in the service of this colony, until the General Assembly shall order otherwise ; and in case the reduction of any of the encroachments made by the French, at or near Lake Iroquois, commonly called Lake Champlain, be attempted during the ensuing winter, the committee of war shall

have power to clothe such men, fit in all respects for a winter campaign; and shall advance one month's pay, and shall order them to such place for service as they shall think proper; and shall appoint proper officers for conducting the said one hundred men, formed into one company, out of the officers in the late expedition; and shall also clothe said officers in a proper manner, and advance one month's pay unto them.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the remainder of said forces be discharged at, or before the last day of this instant December; and said committee of war shall, immediately upon the discharge of said soldiers, pay them their wages; and also those that shall be retained, as aforesaid; and in order thereto, and for defraying the other necessary expenses of said expedition, shall cause the sum of £60,000, in bills of public credit, old tenor, to be struck off from the large plates last used; and to be signed by the committee that signed the last bills, and lodged in the general treasury, to be drawn out as said committee of war may have occasion.

And be it further enacted, that the said sum of £60,000 shall be sunk, one half in one year, and the other half in two years after the same shall be emitted, by public taxes, to be assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of this colony, in the same manner as the former bills emitted for carrying on the expedition, aforesaid, are ordered to be sunk.

And be it further enacted, that the committee of war be, and are hereby empowered to divulge this secret to such of the officers as they shall think proper; first giving them the oath of secrecy.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all business lying before them unfinished, be, and the same is hereby referred unto their next session, which is hereby appointed to be on the last Monday of February next.

God save the King.



*Public Acts passed during the year 1755.*

- An Act in addition to the several acts, regulating the militia in this colony (February.)
- An Act exempting a mill proposed to be built on the land of Toleration Harris, in Warwick, from the operation of the laws now in force in this colony concerning mills. (February.)
- An Act in addition to an act made and passed February, 1728, entitled "An act relating to the freeing of mulatto and negro slaves." (February.)
- An Act in addition to an act in amendment of an act, passed October, 1752, entitled "An act to empower the town councils of the respective towns in the colony, to exchange highways. (February.)
- An Act enabling the collector of rates to follow a person rated in one, to any other town in the colony he shall remove to, without paying his tax in the town where he was rated. (February.)
- An Act to prevent fishing with seines in Kickamuit. (February.)
- An Act to restrain the sending of provisions and warlike stores to Cape Breton, or any other French port or settlement in North America. (March.)
- An Act for laying a further duty upon shipping, for and towards a better support of the light house. (May.)
- An Act to prevent any person purchasing and detaining any of the apparel and arms belonging to any soldier enlisted in this colony. (May.)
- An Act for naturalizing Christian Mayer, a native of Luxembourg, in Germany. (May.)
- An Act altering the times of holding the superior court in the county of Kent, and of the inferior court in King's county. (June.)
- An Act for relieving indigent persons at the expense of his, her, or their children. (August.)
- An Act in addition to, and in amendment of an act passed at the June session of the General Assembly, 1743, entitled "An act for the preventing of counterfeiting the bills of public credit." (October.)

*B. Gleasier to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort Wm. Henry, January 12, 1756.

Sir:—I herewith send you a further statement of this garrison; as also the examination of two French deserters, and the reports of our scouts.

You will see by these returns, how healthy your people are; and that they are nearly one-third the effective men in the garrison. Capt. Whiting I have appointed to act at Fort George, and adjutant to the garrison. He behaves extremely well in all his offices, and I think it is the least I can do to inform you of it.

Our garrison is in as good order as can be expected, and the men do their duty with great spirit.

I do not doubt if the monsieurs should think proper to attack us, we should be able to give them a good flogging, though we have not half our number of men. 1

shall continue to inform you of the state of the garrison monthly, as also of every thing extraordinary that may happen.

I am, &c. &c.,

B. GLEASIER.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor of Rhode Island.

*Sir Charles Hardy, Governor of New York, to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort George, New York, 30th January, 1756.

Sir:—Having lately recommended to the Assembly of this province, to provide for the raising and subsisting one thousand men to act in conjunction with the other colonies, in the proposed attempt upon the French fort at Crown Point, this spring ensuing, agreeably to the opinion of the council of war, lately held in this city, by His Excellency, General Shirley, I have the pleasure to inform you, that they very readily came into the measure; and I enclose you a copy of their resolution upon it, not doubting but the Assembly of your government will cheerfully raise their quota of men for this necessary service, whose resolutions I shall be glad to be informed of, as early as possible.

I am Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

CHAS. HARDY.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, February 2d, 1756.

Sir:—I am favored with Your Honor's letter of the 16th of January, informing me that you had laid before the Assembly within your government, the scheme I had communicated to you, when I had the pleasure of seeing Your Honor, at Albany, for making an attempt, this winter, for the reduction of Crown Point, and their great readiness to join in it upon the terms proposed to them by you.

In answer to this, I am to acquaint Your Honor, that since I left Albany, Sir Charles Hardy and Governor Fitch have laid the scheme for prosecuting the above mentioned expedition upon the terms I last proposed before their respective Assemblies; and that though neither of those governments objected to their part of the expense, as proposed in the last mentioned terms, I expressed great readiness to join in it; yet such difficulties in other respects have arisen from both, as renders the prosecution of it impracticable, so that I have been obliged to drop the thoughts of it.

I now enclose Your Honor a copy of some intelligence sent me by express from Albany, which I received yesterday, and seems to demand the attention of all the colonies concerned in the expedition against Crown Point, and to show the necessity of their preparing with the utmost despatch and unanimity for prosecuting it in the most effectual manner, the ensuing spring; which I can't but hope they will.

I can't determine upon the raising of the two American regiments I talked of at Albany, till I hear from England, which I hourly expect.

I am, with a most real esteem and regard, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, the last Monday in February, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the gentlemen that were appointed to audit the accounts of His Honor, the Governor, as one of the committee of war, presented this Assembly with the following report :

The colony of Rhode Island to Stephen Hopkins,		Dr.
		£    s.    d.
To sundry articles as contained and charged in the paper marked No. 1, settled, and vouchers produced .....	11,599	18 7
To sundry articles as contained and charged in the paper marked No. 2, settled, and vouchers produced .....	15,033	17 8
To sundry articles as contained and charged in the paper marked No. 3, settled, and vouchers produced .....	2,051	09 7
To sundry articles as contained and charged in the paper marked No. 4, settled, and vouchers produced .....	2,040	10 2
To sundry articles as contained and charged in the paper marked No. 5, settled, and vouchers produced .....	11,279	17 2
	£42,005	13 2

Creditor.

By cash received from the general treasurer, by the hands of Daniel Jenckes, Esq.....	2,000	00 0
By cash received from the general treasurer, for which I gave my own receipts.....	42,209	00 0
	£44,209	00 0

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, to examine and adjust the accounts of Stephen Hopkins, Esq., as he is one of the committee of war for the colony of Rhode Island, have accordingly done the same; he having produced proper vouchers for the above sum of £42,005 13s. 2d, having charged nothing for commissions.

We therefore find he ought to be credited for that sum, in his accounts with the

colony; and as to what sums he hath received of the colony's treasurer, we have no knowledge.

Witness our hands, at Providence, the 20th day of February, 1756.

O. BROWN,  
JOS. LIPPITT.

N. B. I have now lying by me, of the money last received from the treasury..... £1,748 6s.

And this Assembly, having duly considered the said report,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and it is hereby accepted.

Whereas, the gentlemen that were appointed to audit the accounts of Daniel Jenckes, Esq., one of the committee of war, presented this Assembly with the following report :

The colony of Rhode Island, to Daniel Jenckes,

One of the committee of war,

Dr.

£ s. d.

1766. To the foot of my account, from August 15th, 1755, to February 20th, 1756, examined..... £26,910 16 8

Creditor.

1756. By cash received of the general treasurer, as per my receipts at sundry times the 11th August, 1755 ..... £—————

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, to examine and adjust the account of Daniel Jenckes, Esq., as he is one of the committee of war, for the colony of Rhode Island, have accordingly done the same, he having produced proper vouchers for the above sum of £26,910 16s. 8d., since the 11th of August, 1755, having charged nothing for commissions.

We therefore find he ought to be credited for that sum in his accounts with the colony; and as to what sums he hath received of the colony's treasurer, we have no knowledge.

Witness our hands, at Providence, the 20th day of February, 1756.

O. BROWN,  
JOS. LIPPITT.

And this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration, and duly examined it,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and is hereby accepted.

*Report of the Tax Assessment Committee.*

Newport, Feb. 13th, 1756.

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee by the General Assembly to receive of Benjamin Nichols, Esq., the colony's rate that was ordered by act of government, October 1754, do report:

That we have received of Benjamin Nichols, £25,000, old tenor; of which we have burnt £13,792; and the other £11,208, we have put into the colony's chest, which hath three locks and keys, which keys we have in possession, said money being new, made in the year 1750.

Burnt.....	£13,792
In the chest.....	.11,208

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£25,000

JOHN TILLINGHAST,  
THOMAS CRANSTON,

PETER BOURS,  
JAMES SHEFFIELD,

Committee.

And this Assembly, having duly examined and considered the aforesaid report,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that said report be, and the same is hereby accepted; and that the committee, aforesaid, burn the remaining £11,208, above mentioned.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the towns of the colony pay the officers the charges of numbering the inhabitants, &c., of each respective town; and that the several accounts be laid before the next town meeting.

Whereas, Messrs. Benjamin Randall and Benjamin Barber, John Weight, Benoni Hall and Thos. Clarke, were appointed by the towns of Westerly and Exeter, to run their dividing line, and having performed that service, made report as followeth:

*Boundary Line between Westerly and Exeter.*

Whereas, we, the subscribers, being appointed a committee by the towns of Westerly and Exeter, in order to run and settle the line between the said towns, have taken upon us that affair, and begun at Robert Moon's stone wall, something to the south of his house, and took a course according to some bounds which we found, which bear from each other east and west; and we continued an east course till we crossed the east line of Richmond, where we made a stone heap for the north-east corner of said Richmond; which line from said wall ran about eight rods and fourteen links to the north of Barney Sisson's house; and then we took a west course from said stone wall, and run until we came some small distance north of Samuel Barber's saw mill, where we made a heap of stones; and then continued a west course, which run about six rods and an half, to the north of the house where Benjamin Potter lives, where we erected a bound; and then we continued said line to a pitch pine tree, some distance to the northward of the dwelling house of Benjamin Hall, which tree was marked; and from thence, the same course, to a chesnut tree, marked; and so to continue a west course, to the colony line; which line, we agree and allow to be the dividing line between the towns of Westerly and Exeter.

As witness our hands, the 13th day of December, A. D. 1753.

BENJAMIN RANDALL,      BENONI HALL,  
 BENJAMIN BARBER,      JOHN WEIGHT.  
 THOMAS CLARKE, Surveyor.

And this Assembly, having duly considered the return, aforesaid,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that said return be, and the same is hereby confirmed, and that the line run by the said committees, as mentioned in their aforesaid re-

turn, be, and remain the dividing line between the said towns of Westerly and Exeter.

Whereas, Stephen Richmond, Simon Perry and Benjamin Hall, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that whereas, the said Stephen Richmond, Robert Lillibridge and Benjamin Brown, were sometime ago, a committee appointed by the General Assembly, to lay out two highways in Westerly, at the expense of said town, one of which, was to be laid from Richmond to Exeter; that at said time the dividing line between the said towns of Westerly and Exeter, was not settled, so that they could not determine where they ought to stop; but as the last course towards Exeter line was north thirty-one degrees and a quarter west, they continued the course to Exeter line, wherever it should be, since the line between Westerly and Exeter has been settled; and that so far to the northward, that Benjamin Hall, one of the petitioners who owned the land which the highway runs through where the line was settled, did insist that the committee should measure the land taken up by said highway, and set a price upon it; whereupon, the said Stephen Richmond and Benjamin Brown, went in September, 1754, and taking with them the aforesaid Simon Perry, as surveyor, ran out said highway; that it was agreed to give the said Benjamin Hall £20, old tenor, for his land; that a return was drawn and sent to the General Assembly, by Mr. Benjamin Barber, who was a deputy at that time; but it was casually lost or mislaid, so that the committee have not been paid for their service, nor the said Hall for his land; and prayed, upon the whole, that the town of Westerly may be ordered to pay them their just due; on consideration whereof,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said town of Westerly pay the aforesaid Benjamin Hall £20 for his land; the said Stephen Richmond and Benjamin Brown, £3 each, for their time and expenses; the said Simon Perry, for his surveying and expenses, £3 10s.; and ten shillings to Benjamin Randall, Esq., for showing the line.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Job Randall, Esq., and Col. Benoni Waterman be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for regulating mill dams in respect to the passage of fish up the rivers, in this colony; directing the method of fishing, fixing fines, &c., and present the same unto the General Assembly as soon as conveniently may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that five hundred men, officers included, be raised in this colony (including those now in pay of the government), for the proposed expedition against Crown Point; and that His Honor, the Governor, Peter Bours and Daniel Jenckes, Esqs., Capt. Benjamin Wickham, and the King's attorney, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same unto this Assembly as soon as may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that George Brown, Esq., Stephen Haszard, Esq., James Helme, Esq., and Mr. Matthew Robinson, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for regulating taxes in this colony, and make report unto the General Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to return the thanks of this colony unto Maj. Gen. Johnson, for his good services in defence of the several governments of New England, during the late expedition against the French and Indians; and that His Honor request that gentleman to pay the same compliment in behalf of this colony unto Capt. William Ayre, engineer general, in the expedition, aforesaid.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the marshal of the court of vice admiralty within this colony, shall have the same power and authority to sell goods and merchandise by public vendue in consequence of orders and decrees of said court, as sheriffs have upon executions; and on non-payment of any sum or sums contracted for by the highest bidder, the said marshal be,



and he is hereby authorized and fully empowered to call a special court or courts, observing the same rules and orders in prosecution, as are directed by the act that empowers vendue masters of the several towns in this colony to call special courts.

An Act for raising, subsisting and paying five hundred men for the expedition designed to reduce the French forts on Lake Champlain, to the obedience of His Majesty.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that five hundred men, exclusive of commissioned officers, and including the men now in the pay of this colony, be forthwith enlisted into the service of said colony, as its proportion of the army intended for the aforesaid expedition.

That the said five hundred men be one entire regiment, commanded and governed by a colonel, a lieutenant colonel and a major; and consist of ten companies, each of which shall be led and conducted by a captain and two lieutenants; except three of said companies, which shall be under the immediate command of the three field officers, and shall have only two lieutenants to each.

And for encouraging men to enlist into this service, there shall be given to each able bodied man, as a bounty, £25, old tenor, and one good blanket; and shall be paid, armed and accoutred, furnished and subsisted, in the same manner as the troops in the service of this colony last year were; and shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits and immunities that were then given to this colony's soldiers; and that all apprentices who shall enlist into this service, shall have the whole bounty, and one half their wages due at their return, and their masters the other half; that the committee of war furnish such officers as shall be appointed, with money for paying the bounty to such soldiers as shall enlist, and shall take care for the subsisting and paying the advance wages to all the soldiers, and provide provisions, warlike and all other stores, necessary for the said five hundred men, and cause them to be carried forward to Al-

bany, as soon as possibly they can; and take due care that there be no defect or delay in any thing that ought to be provided by this colony for the benefit of the said five hundred men, or for the service of the said expedition.

That the Governor of this colony commissionate all the officers who shall be appointed for the said five hundred men, and give orders for the marching of the said men, either all in one body, or in different companies at different times, as the good of the service may require; and cause them to join and act in conjunction with such forces as may be raised by the other colonies concerned in this expedition, and put them under the command and government of such commander in chief as may be agreed upon by all the colonies, and approved by Major General Shirley.

And for a supply of money in the general treasury, for carrying all the things aforesaid, into execution, there be forthwith emitted, and put into the treasury the sum of £8,000, equal in value to the lawful money of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and of the colony of Connecticut; the bills to be printed wholly with types, in the following form, to wit:

T W E N T Y   S H I L L I N G S .

*The possessor of this bill shall be paid by the treasurer of the colony of Rhode Island twenty shillings, lawful money, at the rate of six shillings and eight pence, for one ounce of silver, within two years from the date hereof. By order of Assembly, the 27th of February, 1756.*

And that the bills be made of the denomination of twenty-five, twenty, ten, five, three, two and one shilling; and of nine pence and six pence; and that an equal number be made of each denomination; and the said bills shall be signed by any three of the gentlemen who signed the last bills made by this colony; and as soon as made, shall be put into the treasury.

And for the calling in and redeeming said bills,—

It is enacted, that all such money as may be received from the crown of Great Britain, for reimbursing the expenses this colony have already or hereafter may be at, in the Crown Point expedition, shall be first appropriated to sinking the bills already made by this colony, called Crown Point bills; that when the Crown Point bills are sunk, the remainder of all such money that may be received from home, shall be applied towards sinking the bills emitted by this act; and that for sinking the remainder of those bills, or the whole of them, if no money be received from home for that purpose, rates be assessed on the inhabitants of this colony, in such time that it may be collected and brought into the treasury, time enough to redeem the whole of the bills now emitted, and that shall be then outstanding within two years from the date of said bills; and that the whole of the rate or rates to be made for this purpose, shall be paid in the bills now emitted, or in silver, at the rate of six shillings and eight pence, for every ounce; or in gold, at a preportionate value; and the silver and gold, by these means drawn into the treasury, shall be immediately applied to redeem the outstanding bills emitted by this act; and that for the future, no other bills be burnt by this colony, but those called Crown Point bills, until they be wholly sunk.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the emitting of these bills, nor any thing contained in this act, shall have any effect, or in any measure influence the old or new tenor bills formerly emitted by this colony, and now circulating; but that all bonds, mortgages, notes, accounts, covenants and contracts, made, given or subsisting in this colony, shall be deemed, construed and adjudged in every respect as they would and ought to have been, if this act had never been made; any thing therein contained that may seem to be contrary, notwithstanding.

And that the committee of war have the same power and authority during the recess of the General Assembly, to carry all the matters and things, aforesaid, into execution, as they have at any time heretofore been vested with; and that each

commissioned officer shall be allowed three shillings, lawful money, for every soldier he shall enlist.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that £5,000 more be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, towards re-building Fort George; and that the committee appointed for that service, make use of the stones in the old fort towards building the new one.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war be allowed two per cent. upon all the money passed through their hands in paying the expenses of the expedition against Crown Point, for their time and trouble respecting that expedition.

Whereas, James Sheffield, Esq., exhibited unto this Assembly an account by him charged against the colony, for sundry disbursements, &c., towards building the light house upon Beaver Tail; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said account be, and the same is hereby allowed; and that £133 12s. 10d., the balance thereof, be paid the said James Sheffield, out of the general treasury.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the whole of the £70,000 rate, already assessed upon the inhabitants of this colony, be appropriated towards sinking the bills of credit emitted by this government for carrying on the expedition against Crown Point.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war prepare an account of the charges this colony hath borne in the late expedition against Crown Point, which His Honor, the Governor, is requested to transmit unto Great Britain.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £150, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, unto Mr. James Rhodes, for repairing the great bridge at Pawtuxet Falls, commonly called Pawtuxet Bridge, he charging no commissions.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and re-

solved, that the sum of £200 be allowed and paid unto Job Randall, Esq., out of the general treasury, for building the bridge at Scituate, commonly called the Meeting House Bridge, he charging no commissions.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £5,143 14s. 6d., be paid out of the general treasury unto Mr. William Read, it being the balance of his account of charges for building the light house at Beaver Tail, and the dwelling house thereto belonging, with interest.

And it is further voted and resolved, that interest be further allowed the said Wm. Read, until the whole of said sum is paid.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, the gentlemen whose names are set down in the following list, were chosen officers, to command the regiment of this colony, going against Crown Point :

Christopher Harris, Esq., colonel.

Christopher Champlin, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel.

Samuel Angel, Esq., major.

Thomas Burkit, first lieutenant of Col. Harris's company.

Elknah Spear, second lieutenant of the same.

William Richmond, Jr., first lieutenant of Lieut. Col. Champlin's company.

Benjamin Bosworth, second lieutenant of the same.

Silas Cook, first lieutenant of Major Angel's company.

Mark Noble, second lieutenant of the same.

1st. George Gardner, Jr., first captain.

John Linscomb, his first lieutenant.

James Tew, Jr., second lieutenant of said company.

2d. Henry Babcock, second captain.

Giles Russel, his first lieutenant.

Samuel Hearne, second lieutenant of said company.

3d. Barzillai Richmond, third captain.

Joseph Davis, his first lieutenant.

Nathaniel Peck, second lieutenant of said company

4th. John Potter, Jr., fourth captain.

Grindal Reynolds, his first lieutenant.

George Shearman, second lieutenant of said company.

5th. Daniel Bosworth, fifth captain.

Christopher Hargil, his first lieutenant.

Edward Talby, second lieutenant of said company.

6th. Amos Hammond, sixth captain.

Samuel Champlin, his first lieutenant.

Samuel Rose, second lieutenant of said company.

Joshua Brown, second lieutenant of Capt. John Whiting's company, now at Fort William Henry.

God save the King.

*H. Fox to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 13th March, 1756.

Gentlemen:—The Earl of Loudoun, whom the King has appointed commander in chief of all his forces whatsoever, in North America, being preparing to set out with all possible expedition, together with two regiments of foot, a train of artillery, and a sufficient quantity of warlike stores, which His Majesty has been pleased to order for the public service in those parts; I am commanded to signify to you the King's pleasure, that you should be ready to give His Lordship, and the troops from England, all the assistance in your power, on their arrival in America, agreeably to the orders sent you in Sir Thomas Robinson's letter of October 26, 1754; and you will correspond with, and apply to the Earl of Loudoun, on all occasions, in the same manner, as you were directed to do with the late General Braddock, and Major General Shirley.

It being of the greatest importance, that the King's regiments already in North America (as well as the three stationed in Nova Scotia, as the four in the Province of New York), should be recruited, as soon as possible to their full complement of one thousand men, each, it is His Majesty's pleasure, that you should forthwith call together the Council and Assembly of the province under your government, and that you should press them in the strongest manner, to make the most early and effectual provision for raising, and assisting His Majesty's officers to raise, such a number of men, as shall be sufficient to recruit the King's regiments now stationed, or to be stationed in North America, up to their establishments.

And you will acquaint them, that the King, in order to encourage his faithful subjects to engage in a service so essential for their own defence and preservation, does consent that such recruits shall not be obliged to serve any where but in North America; that they shall be discharged when hostilities shall cease; and that each of them shall have a grant of two hundred acres of land, free from the payment of quit rents for ten years, either in the Province of New York, New Hampshire, or Nova Scotia, at their own choice; which lands shall be granted them, on producing their discharge from the commander in chief, to the Governor of either of the said provinces, respectively; and, in case they should be killed in the service, their widows and children shall be entitled to the said lands, in such

proportions as the Governor and Council of the province wherein such lands lie, shall direct.

You will acquaint the Council and Assembly with His Majesty's great goodness, in having recommended their case to the consideration of his Parliament, who have granted the sum of £115,000, to be distributed in such proportions as the King shall think proper, to the four provinces of New England; and those of New York and New Jersey; and thereby enabled His Majesty not only to manifest his sense of their past services, but also to encourage them for the future to exert themselves in the service with spirit and vigor; that His Majesty therefore expects that they will heartily and zealously concur in every measure which shall be thought advisable, for carrying on the war in North America; and that they will forthwith raise the same number of men, in each colony, as were raised last year (whereof as great a proportion as may be, to consist of rangers), to act in conjunction with the King's troops, in such operations as shall be undertaken for annoying the enemy, and recovering His Majesty's just rights.

This service will be the less burthensome to them, as the raising of the men, their pay, arms and clothing, will be all that will be required of them, measures having been already taken for laying up magazines of stores, and provisions of all kinds, at the sole expense of the crown; and you will use your utmost endeavors to induce the Council and Assembly to give the necessary orders for raising their quota of these men, with the greatest expedition, so that they may be ready to march to such place as the commander in chief shall upon his arrival, direct.

It is also His Majesty's pleasure, that you should particularly recommend it to your Assembly, to make provision out of such funds as already exist, or may hereafter be raised for the King's service, for re-paying the masters of such indentured servants, as shall engage in His Majesty's service, the money paid by the said masters upon the original contract, in proportion to the time such indentured servants have to serve.

And you will at all times discourage the harboring, concealing or assisting such as shall desert the service; and also use all means for discovering, and apprehending such deserters.

You will likewise use your best endeavors to prevail on your Assembly to appropriate such part of the funds now raised, or which shall be raised for the public service, to be issued and applied to the general service in such manner as the commander in chief shall direct.

The King would have you recommend it in the strongest manner to your Council and Assembly, to pass effectual laws for prohibiting all trade and commerce with the French, and for preventing the exportation of provisions of all kinds, to any of heir islands or colonies.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

H. FOX.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, all and every the persons whose names hereafter follow, have taken the oath or affirmation, prescribed by the colony law, against bribery and corruption, in the election of officers in this government, as appears by proper returns from the respective town clerks,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all and every of them be, and are hereby made free of the colony, and may therefore lawfully give their votes to choose officers, not only for their respective towns, but also in the choice of general officers.

Newport—Jos. Yeamans, Thos. Teacle Taylor, Wm. Gardner Wanton, Robert Stoddard, Daniel Fourtane, James Carter, Joseph Phillips, Isaac Ingraham, Jr., James Collins, Joseph Burrrel, Timothy Balch, Edward Simmonds, Richard Mumford, Joseph Belcher, John Clarke, son of John Smith; Benjamin Wanton, William Taggart, John Congdon, Robert Pate, John Baggs, Robert Kelly and Nathan Ingraham.

Providence—John Foster, John Potter, Jr., Samuel Tucker, Jr., Edward Dexter, John Peck, Dean Kimball, James Henry, Benjamin Thurber, Knight Dexter, Jabez Whipple, William Aherson, Jr., Nathaniel Wheaton, Richard Borden, Luther Hawkins, Barak M'Donald, Levi Whipple and Nathan Sterry.

Portsmouth—Benjamin Cornell, Isaac Barker and Caleb Cory.

Warwick—Thomas Utter, Seth Chace, Anthony Low, Wm.



Gorton, Jr., Oliver Arnold, John Gorton, Elisha Whitman, Zebulon Utter, John Holdon, son of Randal; and John Budlong.

Westerly—David Lewis, Jr., Simeon Burdick, Jos. Noyes, Nathan Smith, David Hall, John Larkin, Jr., and John Thompson.

New Shoreham—Nathaniel Lock, Nathaniel Littlefield, the 2d, and Caleb Littlefield, the 2d.

North Kingstown—James Rhodes, Nicholas Gardner, Wilkinson Browning, Nathaniel Lock, William Caswell, Daniel Weeden, Jeremiah Carpenter, Geoffrey Watson, Jr., and David Babcock, Jr.

East Greenwich—Caleb Spencer, Josiah Matteson, Silas Casey, Ebenezer Hill, Jeremiah Sweet and Thomas Briggs, son of Benjamin.

Smithfield—James Appleby, Jr., Gideon Paine, Stukely Arnold, Enoch Arnold, Joseph Carpenter, Jr., Peter Aldrich, Jr., Thomas Herenden, Joshua Shriffe, William Gaskil, Daniel Gallop, Joshua Windsor, Jeremiah Ballard, John Angel, Nathan Arnold, Cornelius Walling and Daniel Smith.

Scituate—Eliezer Collins, Jabez Wight, Jer. Angel, Moses Colvin, Stephen Smith, son of Thomas; and Jer. Angel, Jr.

Charlestown—William Greene and Nathan Kinyon.

Coventry—Ezekiel Johnson, James Bates, Jr., Israel Bowen, Caleb Bates and Peter Barker.

West Greenwich—George Reynolds, Robert Campbell, Wm. Davis, Job Spencer, Benjamin Greene, son of James; James Moon, John Matteson, Jr., Philip Aylsworth, John Straight, Job Jenkins, William Nichols and John King.

Exeter—John Babcock, William Hall, Jr., Jonathan Aylsworth and George Sweet.

Middletown—Nicholas Easton.

Bristol—Royal Paine, Gamaliel Clarke and Charles Church.

Cumberland—John Goold, Daniel Miller, Beach Cutter, Joseph Arnold, Christopher Brown, Henry Richmond, Benoni Studley, John Fisk, John Bartlet and Benj. Batter.

Richmond—William Thomas, Joseph Petty, Barnet Sisson, Benjamin Enos and Andrew Nichols.

Cranston—Stephen Brown and Nathan Williams.

The following officers declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. James Honeyman,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
Mr. Nicholas Cooke,  
Mr. Obadiah Brown,  
Mr. Robert Lawton,

Mr. Joseph Brownell, Jr.,  
Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt,  
Mr. William Richmond,  
Mr. John Congdon,  
Col. Thomas Hazard.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Thomas Ward.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Daniel Updike.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. Thomas Richardson.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Capt. Benjamin Wickham,  
Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
Mr. Peter Bours,  
Capt. Joseph Wanton, Jr.,  
Capt. Wm. Mumford,  
Mr. William Read.

*Providence.*

Mr. Elisha Brown,  
Mr. Nicholas Brown,  
Mr. Henry Harris,  
Mr. George Brown.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. William Anthony, Jr.,  
Mr. Jonathan Freeborne,  
Mr. Thomas Brownell,  
Mr. William Earl.

*Warwick.*

Col. Benoni Waterman,  
Mr. Daniel Greene,  
Capt. Randall Rice,  
Capt. James Greene.

*Westerly.*

Major Joseph Clarke,  
Mr. Samuel Ward.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Robert Hull,  
Mr. John Littlefield.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. Thomas Allen,  
Mr. Samuel Albro.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. Henry Gardner,  
Mr. Joseph Haszard.

## DEPUTIES.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. William Spencer,  
Lieut. Col. Isaac Gardner.

*Jamestown.*

Capt. Wm. Haszard,  
Mr. Edward Carr.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Thomas Owens,  
Capt. John Sayles, Jr.

*Scituate.*

Capt. Job Randall,  
Mr. Gideon Harris.

*Glocester.*

Mr. John Walton,  
Mr. Silas Williams.

*Charlestown.*

Col. Christopher Champlin,  
Capt. Robert Potter.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Jeremiah Ellis,  
Mr. Samuel Dyer.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Caleb Greene,  
Mr. Job Greene.

*Exeter.*

Capt. John Weight,  
Mr. Benoni Gardner.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Thomas Gould,  
Capt. William Turner.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Thomas Greene,  
Mr. Nathaniel Fales.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Thomas Howland,  
Mr. John Brown.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. Richard Brownell,  
Mr. Thomas Church.

*Warren.*

Capt. Josiah Humphreys,  
Capt. Benjamin Barton.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. John Dexter,  
Capt. David Whipple.

*Richmond.*

Capt. William Clarke, Jr.,  
Mr. Stephen Richmond.

*Cranston.*

Mr. Joseph Harris,  
Mr. Christopher Lippitt.

The Hon. Thomas Cranston, speaker, and Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the warrants to the collector of rates, be lengthened out unto the next session of this Assembly, and no longer.

Whereas, the committee of war have received of His Excel-

lency, William Shirley, Esq., commander in chief of His Majesty's forces in North America, three hundred firelocks, three hundred bayonets, three hundred cartouch boxes, nine barrels of gunpowder, one ton of musket balls, and one cask of flints, for the use of the forces raised in this colony, to be employed in the expedition now carrying on against the French forts and settlements on Lake George, late St. Sacrament, at Crown Point, and on the Lake Iroquois, otherwise called Lake Champlain; and whereas, the said committee of war have, by an indenture, under their hands and seals, dated the 20th day of April last, promised, in behalf of the colony, to be answerable to the quartermaster general and financial officer of His Majesty's ordnance, for all said arms and accoutrements, and that the same shall be returned (such only as shall be lost by inevitable accidents in actual service, excepted) at the end of the aforesaid expedition, to His Majesty's comptroller of the ordnance, in North America, at such place as shall be appointed by His Excellency, William Shirley, Esq., or the commander in chief, for the time being;—

This Assembly do therefore vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that they approve of the conduct of the committee of war, in obligating themselves, as abovesaid, in behalf of the colony; and that the colony will abide by, and perform the promise contained in said indenture.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the wages of the first lieutenant of each of the field officers' companies going in the expedition against Crown Point, be £90 per month; and that the second lieutenant of each of the said officers, be allowed the monthly wages of £60.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the committee of war be, and they are hereby directed and fully empowered to issue warrants unto the colonels of the several regiments in this colony, to cause to be impressed such a number of able bodied men as shall be wanted to fill up the several companies raising for the

expedition against Crown Point, in such proportion as the committee of war shall think just; and that said warrants be given out upon the 10th day of this instant May, if said companies are not filled up by that time.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the 20th day of this instant May, be set apart and observed as a day of fasting and prayer, throughout this colony; and that no servile labor be done on said day; and that His Honor, the Governor, be, and is hereby requested to put out a proclamation for that purpose; and that this act be forthwith proclaimed.

Published in Newport, May 8th, 1756, by

THO. WARD, Secretary.

An Act for regulating and governing the forces raised, and to be raised by this colony, for the intended expedition against Crown Point.

Whereas, this government has been, and are now levying forces for an expedition against Crown Point, and it is necessary that they should be under proper government,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the commissioned officers of the forces raised, and to be raised in this colony, for the expedition aforesaid, may, by the appointment of their colonel or commanding officer, hold a regimental court martial, for inflicting such corporeal punishments as the neglect of duty, disorders in quarters, or other such crimes, may deserve; which regimental court martial, shall consist of five commissioned officers, at the least; two of whom, shall be of the degree of captain; and the judgment or sentence by them given, shall be always according to the plurality of voices; but never executed until the commanding officer of the regiment shall have confirmed and approved the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the regiment of this colony, and all the officers and soldiers

thereto belonging, shall be subject to such general courts martial as may be holden in the army, by order of the commander in chief.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Ephraim Starkweather be, and is hereby appointed chaplain of the regiment of this colony, raised for the expedition against Crown Point, and be allowed the monthly wages of £100, old tenor.

Whereas, Messrs. John Wanton, Thomas Rodman, Edward Wanton, Joseph Cozzens, Samuel Dyre, Jr., Edward Calverson, Clothier Pierce, Jr., Matthew Cozzens, Robert Wheatley, Augustus Johnston and Israel Brayton, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that whereas, there is great danger of an approaching war, and this government is repairing the fort, and putting the colony into a posture of defence; and as the greater part of the petitioners have been used to the exercise of cannon, they proposed an act may be passed that the masters of vessels in the town of Newport, or so many as shall be thought necessary by the captain of the fort, may, instead of being obliged to bear arms in the trained bands of said town, be obliged, by an order from the captain of said fort, for the time being, to appear six times every year at the fort, on such days as the captain shall see cause to appoint, in order to exercise the cannon there; by means whereof, they may gain further knowledge of that exercise, and be the better enabled to defend, in case of an attack of said fort; on consideration whereof;—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the prayer of the petitioners be, and the same is hereby granted; that the captain of Fort George enlist fifty men for the purpose, in said petition mentioned.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that William Read, hire for the use of the colony, so much money as is at present necessary for carrying on the building of Fort George; but nevertheless, he may not exceed the sum granted by the General Assembly, for that purpose.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war be, and they are hereby directed and fully empowered to issue warrants to the sheriffs of the several counties within this colony, to impress so many blankets as shall be necessary for the present expedition against Crown Point.

Whereas, a certain sloop (the master's name unknown to this Assembly) was lately cast on shore at Point Judith, in this colony; out of which a person was buried, who died with the small pox, which the master concealed; and as almost all the people belonging to said sloop, are taken down with said distemper, and the whole colony is in danger by said concealment,—

This Assembly do therefore vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings county, or his deputy, take the said vessel with her cargo, into custody, and safely keep the same until all charges and damages be paid, which have, or shall arise by means of said vessel's bringing the infection into this colony, or until sufficient security be given for the same, not less than £5,000; and that this act be forthwith proclaimed, and a copy thereof immediately sent to said sheriff, by the secretary.

Published in Newport, May 8th, 1756, by

THOMAS WARD, Secretary.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all business lying before them unfinished, be, and the same is hereby referred unto their next session; that the secretary publish in Newport, by beat of drum, all the acts and orders now made and passed, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly, which is hereby adjourned to the second Tuesday of June next.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the second Tuesday in June, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Gideon Northup, William Northup, Benjamin Davis, Stephen Watson, Caleb Watson, Ephraim Haszard, John Gardner, son of Ezekiel; Stephen Northup, son of Joseph; Isaac Browning, Joseph Congdon, Jr., Jonathan Vaughan, John Greene, John Hill, Jeremiah Haszard, Thomas Douglas, Peleg Briggs, Samuel Browning, Alexander Huling, Richard Chadsey, Christopher Allen, Richard Durfey and David Sprague, all of North Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, having taken the oath, or affirmation, by law prescribed against bribery and corruption in the election of officers, were admitted freemen of said town, since the general election, held at Newport, in May, 1755; but by accident, their names were not returned at the last general election, so that they have not been made free of the colony,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all and every of the persons above named, be, and hereby are made free of the colony, and may therefore lawfully give their votes, not only to choose officers for their said town, but also in the choice of general officers.

Whereas, Abraham Sheldon, Jr., Jonathan Knight, Jr., Joseph Randall, the 3d, John Waterman, son of Richard; Abiah Corp, Stephen Westcot and John Burton, Jr., all of Cranston, in the county of Providence, having taken the oath, or affirmation, by law prescribed against bribery and corruption in the election of officers, were admitted freemen of said town since the general election, held at Newport, in May, 1755, but by accident their names were not returned at the last gen-



eral election, so that they have not been made free of the colony,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all and every of the persons above named, be, and hereby are made free of the colony; and may therefore lawfully give their votes to choose officers, not only in their said town, but also in the choice of general officers.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Easton, Robert Lawton, Esqrs., Capt. Randall Rice, George Brown, Esq., Capt. William Mumford, and Mr. Samuel Ward, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, with power to inquire jointly and severally, whether any person or persons have been guilty of the breach of any of the acts of Assembly or laws of this colony, made to restrict or prohibit the exportation of provisions out of this colony; and the said committee, or the major part of them, are hereby invested with power to send for any person or persons to come before them to be examined upon oath or otherwise; and also to send for any book, records, or papers within this colony, to be examined, and to make report to this Assembly, at this present, or their next session, of any breach of said acts or laws, that they shall discover.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Col. Benoni Waterman, and Major Thomas Greene, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for the good government of our forces in the expedition against Crown Point, and present the same unto this Assembly as soon as may be.

Whereas, the town council of Newport preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the General Assembly of this colony, at their session on the third Monday of March, 1750, made and passed an act for granting an excise upon wines and spirituous liquors, sold by retail in said town, which was to continue and be in force for five years; and that the said act expired last March; whereupon, they prayed it may be revived and continue in force for such a term of years as may be thought proper;—

On consideration whereof, be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act aforesaid be, and the same is hereby revived, and shall continue and be in force, for, and during the term of five years more, commencing from the day of its expiration.

Whereas, Benjamin King exhibited unto this Assembly an account by him charged against the colony, for making an instrument to determine the latitude in order to run the dividing line between this colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that said account be, and the same is hereby allowed; and that £300, the amount thereof, be paid the said Benjamin King, out of the general treasury.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he hereby is requested and fully empowered to receive the money granted this colony, by the Parliament of Great Britain, when the same shall arrive; and if it shall happen to be brought to New York, or Boston, that His Honor cause it to be transported by land or water, to Newport, as he shall judge best, and most safe for the government, and cause it to be lodged in the general treasury, giving and taking receipts; and that the said money be, and remain in the treasury, until further orders from the General Assembly.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the forces already raised, or that hereafter may be raised by this colony, shall be under the same regulation, as to a general court martial, as the forces in the other governments are.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby directed to receive the bills of public credit last emitted by this colony; and called lawful money in all payments into the general treasury, at the same rate that they now pass; and that a rate of £100,000 be assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of this colony.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that George Brown, Esq., and Mr. Nicholas Brown, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for making the work house, in Providence, a house of correction, also.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all vessels coming into the port of Newport, which shall, after being hailed by Fort George, presume to enter the harbor without having first obtained liberty from the captain, or gunner of said fort, shall be brought to by said fort, and be obliged to lie to, until liberty is obtained for entering the harbor; and the master or commander of such vessel, shall pay into the naval office, £4 for the first shot, £8 for the second, and for every shot after, £12; and no such vessel shall be cleared out, until the same is paid; and that the captain of said fort, or in his absence, the gunner, inform the naval officer of every shot that shall be fired, as aforesaid; and that the captain of the fort, or in his absence, the gunner, shall not permit any vessel to sail out of the harbor of Newport without producing a pass to the captain, or in his absence, to the gunner of said fort; woodmen and small fishing boats, excepted.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 22d day of June, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war, be, and they are hereby directed and fully empowered, to provide fresh victuals, at the

colony's expense, for such of His Majesty's troops coming from England, as shall arrive in this colony; and likewise to furnish the officers who may have occasion to go from place to place, with all necessaries for travelling by land, in case there are no means of going by sea, agreeably to His Majesty's instructions now before this Assembly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman, Thomas Cranston and Peter Bours, Esqs., be, and they are appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for preventing the depreciation of the paper currency in this colony, and present the same unto this Assembly at their next session.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman and Nicholas Cooke, Esqs., Col. Benoni Waterman and Mr. Samuel Ward, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for preventing the exportation of provisions and warlike stores out of this colony.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman and Nicholas Cooke, Esqs., Capt. Benjamin Wickham, George Brown, Esq., and Major Thomas Greene, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for preventing the exportation of provisions and warlike stores out of this colony, that the French may not be supplied therewith, and present the same unto this Assembly, as soon as may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. William Thurston Gardner, be, and he is hereby chosen and appointed deputy commissary of the forces raised and to be raised by this colony, for the expedition against Crown Point; that he assist Mr. Rufus Hopkins, the commissary of said forces, and be allowed £100, old tenor, per month, for his service.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Samuel Albro, Esq., Mr. Jonathan Nichols, innholder, Capt. Josiah Arnold and Capt. William Haszard, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to consider the

circumstances of the several ferries in this colony ; and also whether it be reasonable to raise the prices of ferriage, and if so, how much.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that one hundred men, exclusive of officers, be forthwith raised, by enlistment, to join the forces already raised by this colony, and sent upon the expedition against Crown Point ; and that Obadiah Brown, Job Randall, John Dexter, and John Walton, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same unto this Assembly, as soon as may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the clerk of the lower house be, and he is hereby added unto the committee that was appointed to examine the accounts of those gentlemen that were appointed to pay the charges of the last expedition that was undertaken to reduce Canada unto the obedience of His Majesty ; and to receive the money belonging unto the colony, which is in the hands of said gentlemen.

An Act for raising, subsisting, and paying one hundred men, in addition to those already raised by this colony, and sent on the expedition designed to reduce the French forts on Lake Champlain, to the obedience of His Majesty.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that one hundred men, exclusive of commissioned officers, be forthwith enlisted into the service of this colony, divided into two companies of fifty men each, and sent and joined unto the forces already raised by said colony, and now in actual service, under the command of Col. Christopher Harris.

And for the more speedy raising, enlisting and conducting the said two companies,—

Be it further enacted, that the committee of war, or any two of them, be, and are hereby authorized and fully empowered to issue and grant enlisting warrants to such and so many persons as they shall think proper, to enlist the hundred men

aforesaid; and that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to commissionate one captain and two lieutenants for each company when enlisted, which captains and lieutenants shall be selected out of the aforesaid enlisting officers, by the committee of war.

And for the encouraging one hundred men to enlist into the service, aforesaid,—

Be it further enacted, that there shall be given unto each able bodied man, that shall enlist, as aforesaid, the same bounty, wages, privileges, benefits and immunities as have been granted to those now in the service of this colony, and gone upon the expedition, aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that the commissioned officers of the aforesaid companies shall have and receive the same wages and enjoy equal privileges, benefits and immunities with those of the same rank, that are already gone into the service, aforesaid.

And for the more speedy payment of the bounties and wages, aforesaid, and providing necessary stores, the committee of war is hereby empowered to draw out of the general treasury such sum and sums of money from time to time as they shall think proper; and if there be not a sufficiency in the treasury, that the said committee of war and general treasurer, or either of them, be, and hereby is empowered to hire, from time to time, so much money as they shall think proper, giving no more than ten per cent. per annum, for interest.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that it is the true intent and meaning of the act made and passed at this session of Assembly, for the more effectual obstructing the exportation of provisions and warlike stores out of this colony, that fish is not comprehended in the article of provisions mentioned in said act.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the fourth Monday of August, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman, Obadiah Brown, Jer. Lippitt and Job Randall, Esqs., with Messrs. Elisha Brown and Nicholas Brown, be, and they are appointed a committee to take into consideration His Honor, the Governor's message unto this Assembly, and prepare a bill agreeably thereto, and present the same as soon as may be.

That which follows, contains a copy of the message referred to in the preceding vote :

*Governor Hopkins's Message to the General Assembly.*

To the General Assembly :

Gentlemen :—Public affairs of the greatest importance to the honor and interest of this colony, must receive their determination from your resolutions at this time.

The money granted by the British Parliament to the colonies of New England, New York and New Jersey, being now arrived in America, the manner in which this colony's proportion of it shall be applied to the calling in and sinking the bills heretofore ordered to be sunk by it, must now be ascertained.

The bills of credit last emitted by this colony, being so much obstructed in their circulation by many, whose designs seem calculated to ruin the public credit of this colony, with which its constitution must also sink, it is become absolutely necessary either to call in and sink those bills immediately, or find some other expedient to give them credit.

The money already provided for carrying on the present expedition against Crown Point, being wholly exhausted, and our forces like to continue some time longer abroad, where they must be provided for ; and at their return, will reasonably demand their wages ; and many expenses already accrued, not being paid, some method must be taken to supply the general treasury with money sufficient for those purposes. These, with such other things as are in course before you, will come under your consideration at this session.

STEPHEN HOPKINS.

Council Chamber, Newport, 23d August, 1756.

Whereas, John Tillinghast, Thomas Cranston, James Sheffield and Peter Bours, Esqs., were, by the General Assembly, at their session, holden at South Kingstown, the last Monday of February last, appointed a committee to burn £11,208, at that time lodged in the general treasury, and having performed that service, presented this Assembly with the following report:

“Agreeably to an act of the General Assembly, passed at their session, in February, 1756, do report,—

That we have exchanged with the general treasurer, the £11,208, for Crown Point money (said money was part of the £25,000 rate), and have burnt the same.

As witness our hands in Newport, March 4, 1756.

JOHN TILLINGHAST, JAMES SHEFFIELD,  
THOMAS CRANSTON, PETER BOURS, Committee:  
Test, BENJAMIN NICHOLS.”

Crown Point money burnt: first . . . . .	£7,000
“ “ “ “ second . . . . .	11,200
	£18,208

And this Assembly, having duly examined and considered said report,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and is hereby accepted.

Whereas, Thomas Cranston, Peter Bours and James Sheffield, Esqs., were appointed a committee to examine the £16 counterfeit bills, that were lodged in the general treasury, in order to be exchanged by the money paid in there, by John Coggswell, for that purpose, &c.; and having performed that service, presented this Assembly with the following report:

*Report of the Committee appointed to examine counterfeit bills of public credit.*

Newport, March 12th, 1756.

Agreeably to an act of the General Assembly, we, the subscribers, do report:  
That we have examined the £16 counterfeit bills that were lodged in the general



treasury, in order to be exchanged for part of the good money paid into the general treasury, by John Coggswell, for that purpose.

And do further report, that we find the number of said bills lodged, to be one hundred and forty-seven; and the money paid in by said Coggswell for their redemption, to be £1,600, out of which, the treasurer, by act of government, is allowed five per cent., which is £80 for his trouble; the remaining sum of £1,520, divided by one hundred and forty-seven, the number of bills lodged, leaves for every £16 counterfeit bill £10 6s. 9d., in good money, which the treasurer is paying, and is ready to pay any one who hath a right; a list of the names of the persons' being lodged in the office.

We also have burnt the one hundred and forty-seven counterfeit bills.

THOMAS CRANSTON,	JAMES SHEFFIELD,
PETER BOURS,	Committee.

And this Assembly having taken the said report and account into consideration, and duly examined them,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and it is hereby accepted; and that £9, the amount of the account, be allowed and paid the said Thomas Cranston, Peter Bours and James Sheffield, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the proprietors of the ferry places in Newport, Jamestown, North Kingstown and South Kingstown, preferred a petition and representation, that since the General Assembly made the last act for regulating the prices of the ferriage, the currency hath greatly depreciated; provisions of all sorts, as well as canvas, rigging, iron work, tallow, and all other necessaries, for keeping their boats and wharves in a condition suitable to the purpose that they were procured and made for, having risen to more than double the prices they stood at when the act, aforesaid, was made; and thereupon prayed the prices of ferriage may be augmented; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the prices of ferriage between Newport and Jamestown, and between Jamestown and North Kingstown, and South Kingstown, be raised, and stated at the following prices, to wit:

For a man and horse, six shillings; for a draft horse, six shillings; a single person, three shillings; an ox, or neat creature, eight shillings; a hog, calf, or sheep, one shilling;

and for a horse and chaise, or chair, twenty-four shillings ; the owners of every ferry, taking leases of the committee that shall be appointed for that purpose ; and giving bond for their due and faithful performance of such their leases.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Easton, Obadiah Brown, Jeremiah Lippitt and John Walton, Esqs., together with Mr. Samuel Ward and Col. Benoni Waterman, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill in amendment of, and addition to, the several laws of this colony, regulating the public rates and taxes thereof.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to lease out the ferries, give leases of the same for four years.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that a public lottery be set up by this colony, for raising the sum of £10,000, to carry on the building of Fort George ; and that Edward Scott, Esq., with Messrs. Augustus Johnston and Martin Howard, Jr., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same unto this Assembly as soon as may be.

Whereas, William Pelsue, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account of £2 10s., by him charged against the colony, for his horse hire and time, in going to His Honor, the Deputy Governor, by order of James Honeyman, Esq., to get a warrant, for proclaiming His Majesty's declaration of war against France ; which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that thirty shillings of said account be allowed and paid the said William Pelsue, out of the general treasury.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Caleb Carr, be, and he is hereby chosen lieutenant of Fort George, and be allowed the monthly wages of £60, he finding himself, and attending there constantly, both night and day.

And that twenty soldiers, being good and able bodied men, be enlisted for said fort, to reside there, also, both night and

day, and be allowed £30 per month, they finding themselves; and that said soldiers be employed in building the fort, at all times when their other duties will admit of it; and the lieutenant hereby is directed to take particular care to see the same performed.

Whereas, Joshua Babcock, Jeremiah Lippitt and Benjamin Nichols, Esqs., exhibited unto this Assembly, the following account,—

“ 1755. Colony of Rhode Island,

To Joshua Babcock, Benj. Nichols and Jer. Lippitt, Dr.	
To signing £60,000, ordered by act of Assembly, in March, A. D. 1755, at half per cent.; three quarters of which amounts to.....	£225
To signing £30,000, ordered by act of Assembly, in June, A. D. 1755, at half per cent.....	150
To signing £10,000, struck with the small plate, ordered by the Assembly, in June, 1755, at twenty per cent..	100
To signing £20,000, ordered by the Assembly, in August, 1755 .	100
To signing £60,000, ordered by the Assembly, in September, 1755.....	300
To signing £60,000, ordered by the Assembly, in December, 1755.....	300
	<hr/>
Errors excepted, per	£1,175

J. BABCOCK,  
JER. LIPPITT,  
BENJ. NICHOLS.”

Newport, January 10th, 1755.

And this Assembly, having taken said account into consideration, and duly examined it,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Jeremiah Lippitt, Joshua Babcock and Benjamin Nichols, Esq., be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, the sum of £1,175, for the services in their account charged against the colony; it being half per cent., agreeably to law, exclusive of

Col. Updike's service, in signing the bills mentioned in the first article of said account.

An Act for calling in and sinking the bills of credit emitted by this colony, called Crown Point bills; and for supplying the general treasury with money to carry on what the colony hath undertaken, with regard to the expedition against Crown Point.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the bills made for the Crown Point expedition, called Crown Point bills, be forthwith called in and sunk; and the general treasurer is hereby ordered and directed, upon the possessors of said bills bringing into the general treasury any of them, amounting to the sum of £6 and upwards, to satisfy and pay such possessors out of the sterling money, by His Majesty granted to this colony (when the same shall be received), two-third parts of said bills, at and after the following rate or proportion, to wit:

A milled dollar, or gold, according to its proportionate value, for every £4, old tenor, expressed on the back of said bills; the remaining third part of the bills due to such possessor, the general treasurer shall give his promissory note for the payment of in silver and gold, according to its value; regulated and stated, as aforesaid, on or before the 22d day of December, in the year of our Lord 1757, under the following manner, to wit:

*The possessor hereof, is entitled to, and shall receive out of the general treasury —, Spanish milled dollars, or gold, according to its proportionate value, on or before the 22d day of December, A. D. 1757; the same being for value received. As witness my hand, this — day of —, A. D. 1756.*

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be a rate of £4,000, lawful money, assessed and levied on the inhabitants of this colony; and the same to be burnt.

And also a rate on said inhabitants of the sum of £53,000, old tenor, for supplying the general treasury ; and the same to be assessed, levied and collected on or before the last day of February next ; and that the act passed by this Assembly, at their last session, for assessing and levying a rate of £100,000, upon the the inhabitants of this colony, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committee of war, or the general treasurer, hire the sum of £50,000, old tenor, for the use of the colony, from time to time, as occasion may require, not giving a larger interest than six per cent., and ascertaining the value of the sum hired ; which sum shall be paid to the persons of whom the same is hired, out of the £53,000, when received by the general treasury.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case money cannot be hired of private persons, upon equitable terms, within twenty days after the giving public notice, that the committee of war be authorized, and hereby are fully empowered, to cause £4,000 of lawful money to be impressed, all of the same tenor with the lawful money already made, with the addition of the time of its being made ; and said bills, when struck off, shall be signed by the committee that signed the former bills, and put into the general treasury, for the colony's use, and be sunk by a rate or tax, within two years.

An Act to prevent the currency of the bills of public credit emitted by the Province of New Hampshire.

Whereas, great quantities of bills of public credit, emitted by the Province of New Hampshire, have been lately brought into this colony, not only from said Province, but also from the colony of Connecticut, which, with great sums of counterfeit bills in imitation of the true bills of public credit emitted by said Province, inadvertently received by the inhabitants of this colony, have not only had a great tendency towards the depre-

ciation of our own bills of public credit, but the inhabitants of this colony have also been greatly defrauded thereby ; for remedy whereof, for the future,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that for the future, the bills of public credit of the said Province of New Hampshire, shall not be a tender in law, in any payment, whatsoever ; and all contracts and bargains, of what nature or kind, whatsoever, which hereafter shall be made for the payment of such bills, shall be utterly void ; and that from and after the 1st day of August next, if any person or persons shall pass, or receive in payment, any of said bills, he, she, or they so offending, shall forfeit and pay the sum of £500, old tenor ; to be recovered in any court of record, within the county where such offence shall be committed, by bill, plaint or information ; one half, to and for the use of the colony, and the other half, unto him, her, or them, that shall inform and sue for the same.

Provided, nevertheless, that this act, or any thing herein contained, shall not extend, nor be deemed or construed to extend to such New Hampshire bills as have been levied upon execution by any of the sheriffs or their deputies, and are now actually in his, or their hands ; but the same shall be received by the person or persons for whose use they were levied, if tendered to him, her, or them, by such officer, within twenty days after the publication of this act.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all the acts heretofore made and passed by the General Assembly of this colony, to prohibit the sending of provisions and warlike stores, be, and they, and every of them, are hereby repealed, and made utterly void and of none effect, excepting those parts of said acts which prohibit the exporting provisions and warlike stores to the West India neutral islands ; and provided, that the paragraphs of the acts, above mentioned, that prohibit the sending provisions and warlike stores among the French, be not repealed.

Whereas, His Excellency, the Earl of Loudoun, general and commander in chief of all His Majesty's forces in North

America, hath, by his letter of the 20th of this instant August, informed this government that His Majesty's fort and garrison at Oswego, together with the naval armament and stores there, have fallen into the hands of the French,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to send one suitable person to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and another to the colony of Connecticut, to confer with them, as to what is necessary to be done upon this extraordinary event; and that the committee of war, the field officers of every regiment in this colony, and the deputies of each town, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to make inquiry where provisions, arms, blankets, warlike and other stores of all sorts can be had for five hundred men; and make report unto this Assembly at their next session.

God save the King.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

Albany, 20th August, 1756.

Sir:—As, by accounts I received last night, His Majesty's fort and garrison at Oswego, together with the naval armament and stores, have, by a series of bad circumstances, fallen into the hands of the French; and as, from the condition and number of the troops left to me, when I came to my command, I can scarce hope to do more than to resist the French power in that quarter, I must earnestly recommend to you to consider without delay, how far the provincials now in arms, are exposed to the weight of the French, in the parts towards Crown Point, and the dangerous events of any accident happening to them in consequence of these circumstances, and what forces you can immediately send to reinforce them, as it seems absolutely necessary to do, for the security and safety of the country.

Therefore, in consequence of the powers given to me, by His Majesty's commission under the great seal, and of his orders signified to you, by his secretary of state, I do demand of you an aid of as considerable a body of men, with arms, as you can send, to be raised in companies, and sent off as fast as raised; and also a number of carriages, or ox teams, wherewith I may be able to transport provisions, as this province alone is not able to supply all.

I am with great truth and regard, sir,

Your most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 6th of September, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the following account was exhibited unto this Assembly, by James Sheffield, Esq., one of the committee appointed to build the fort on Goat Island, in the township of Newport,—

Colony of Rhode Island,		Dr.
1755.		£ s. d.
To sundry disbursements for Fort George, as per account showed the audit.. . . . . .		156 4 9
To ditto on the outworks, as per account showed ditto . . . . .		2,847 4 8½
		<hr/>
		£3,003 9 5½
Per Contra,		Cr.
By cash received of the general treasurer at sundry times . . . . .		2,113 2 5
By 500 bricks, sold to Nicholas Easton, Esq. . . . .		4
“ balance due to J. S. . . . .		886 7 0½
		<hr/>
E. E., per JAMES SHEFFIELD.		£3,003 9 5½

And the said account being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and it is hereby allowed; and that the above balance of £886 7s. ½d., be paid the said James Sheffield, out of the general treasury.



Whereas, there hath been laid before this Assembly, the draught of a receipt, to be given by His Honor, the Governor, when he shall receive the money granted this colony by the Parliament of Great Britain, which being duly examined and considered,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said draught be, and the same is hereby approved; and that the secretary affix the seal of the colony to fair copies of it, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the mathematical instrument now in the colony house, and which was procured by Capt. Joseph Harrison, for the use of the colony, be lodged in the Redwood Library; but so, nevertheless, that the property thereof, shall stand and remain vested in the colony.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to accept the bills of exchange drawn on him by Richard Partridge, Esq., the colony's agent, in favor of Gideon Wanton, Esq.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the directors of the lottery set up to raise a sum of money, for carrying on the building of Fort George, shall be, and hereby are indemnified from all damages that may accrue to them by fire, from the enemy, by receiving counterfeit bills, or any other extraordinary casualty; the same being made to appear by the oath of the person that shall sustain damage.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Easton, Thomas Haszard and John Dexter, Esqs., Mr. Nicholas Brown and Caleb Greene, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for regulating rates and taxes, and make report unto this Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman and Jeremiah Lippitt, Esqs., Mr. Samuel Ward and Maj. Thomas Greene, be, and they are here-

by appointed a committee to prepare a bill directing in what manner the subjects of the French king, that now are, or hereafter may be prisoners in this colony, shall be treated; and also prohibiting the carrying on any trade with the subjects of the French King.

Whereas, Jeremiah Lippitt, Benjamin Nichols and Joshua Babcock, Esqs., exhibited unto this Assembly an account by them charged against the colony, for signing £8,000 lawful money, ordered to be made by the General Assembly, at their session, held in South Kingstown, on the last Monday of February last, which being duly examined,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that said account be, and the same is hereby allowed; and that £40, lawful money, the amount thereof, be paid the said Jeremiah Lippitt, Benjamin Nichols and Joshua Babcock, out of the general treasury.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Peter Bours, Esq., George Brown, Esq., and Mr Samuel Ward, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to draw up an address to His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, and present the same unto this Assembly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Providence, be, and he is hereby, directed to pay the rate that was assessed on the estate of Samuel Bartlett, late of Cumberland, deceased (which estate, the said Samuel, in his life, forfeited to the colony), out of the money that accrued to the colony from the sale of said estate.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Edward Scott, Peter Bours and Thomas Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to revise all the public laws of this colony, which have been made and passed since the time that they were last printed; and that they, the committee, procure five hundred copies to be printed; and get the same stitched in covers of marble paper, at the colony's charge.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and re-

solved, that the captain of the fort, be, and he is hereby directed to fire minute guns at the funeral of His Honor, the Deputy Governor; and that the four-pound guns be used on that occasion, but not oftener than twenty times.

Whereas, by the death of the late Hon. Jonathan Nichols, Esq., the second seat in the government is become vacant, and other vacancies have happened since the last session of this Assembly; whereupon, both houses resolved into a grand committee, and chose the following officers, to wit:

The Hon. John Gardner, Esq., for the remaining part of the current year; who soon after appeared, and in the presence of the General Assembly, took the engagement by law provided.

His Honor, the Deputy Governor, was also chosen one of the committee of war, in the room of the late Mr. Nichols.

Whereas, the works that have been begun and carried on at Fort George, for the defence and security of the colony, remain still unfinished, and it is thought absolutely necessary that said works should continue still to be carried on further, in order to their being rendered complete, as well as to secure and prevent what is already done, from falling into ruin,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Capt. William Mumford and Lieut. Caleb Carr, be and they are hereby, empowered to procure (as soon as may be), all such materials as shall be found necessary for the carrying on said work; and also to employ such a number of workmen thereon as shall be necessary for the same; that the charges thereon accruing, be paid out of the lottery intended for that purpose; and that said captain and lieutenant perform said services, without any expense or charge unto the government, for their own trouble.

An Act for raising, subsisting and paying a company of sixty men, as a reinforcement to the provincial army.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that one company of sixty men, including officers, be forthwith raised in this colony, as a rein-

forcement to the provincial army gone, this year, in the expedition against Crown Point ; that as soon as said company is raised, they be sent unto His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, under the command of the following officers, who are chosen, to wit :

Joseph Windsor, captain ; John Power, Jr., first, and Benjamin Butler, second lieutenants.

And be it further enacted, that if any of said officers refuse to take the command hereby assigned him or them, the committee of war shall, and hereby is directed and fully empowered to appoint another or other in the place or places of him or them that shall so refuse.

And be it further enacted, that if the said company shall not be filled by enlistment before or upon the 25th day of this instant September, the committee of war be, and is hereby, authorized and fully empowered to issue and give orders for raising the number of men that shall be wanted to complete the said company ; which shall be done in such manner as they, the committee of war, shall think most proper.

And be it further enacted, that all and every the officers and soldiers that shall go in the present service, shall be entitled to have and enjoy the same wages, bounty and immunities, which the officers and soldiers last raised in this colony were or are entitled to.

And be it further enacted, that the committee of war provide all necessaries for said company, as heretofore ; and that, for defraying the charges thereof, the general treasurer, or the committee of war, is hereby directed and fully empowered to hire the sum of £20,000, old tenor, upon the credit of the colony, giving no more than ten per cent. interest ; and in case the said sum of £20,000 cannot be hired, as aforesaid, that the committee of war direct and order the sum of £2,000 lawful money to be struck off and signed by the committee who signed the last bills ; which shall be redeemed and sunk in two years, according to act of Parliament, by a rate or tax, to be assessed and levied on the inhabitants of this colony.

And it is further enacted, that His Honor, the Governor, be,

and he hereby is, requested to commissionate the officers that are, or shall be, appointed to the command of said company.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that His Honor the Governor, and Martin Howard, Jr., Esq., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, and fully empowered to wait on His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, general and commander in chief of all His Majesty's forces in North America, and congratulate him upon his safe arrival in North America; that they lay before His Excellency, the state of this colony, in all its circumstances, (with which His Honor the Governor, is intimately acquainted), and request His Lordship's assistance in such matters as concern this colony, according to the instructions given them by this Assembly.

An Act for prohibiting all trade and commerce with the French.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the collector of His Majesty's customs of this colony, and also the naval officer, be, and they are hereby, restricted to clear out any vessel for parts beyond sea, until the master of such vessel shall have made oath or affirmation before the naval officer, that he will not, directly or indirectly, go with his vessel to any port or place, subject to, or within the dominions of the French king, unless forced thereto, by an enemy, or other unavoidable misfortune; which oath, or affirmation, shall be certified by the naval officer, on every clearance that shall be given for such vessel; and if any person violate his oath or affirmation, made as aforesaid, he shall, upon conviction thereof, before any court of record in the colony, forfeit all and singular his estate, both real and personal,—one half to the person or persons who shall inform and sue for the same, and the remainder to and for the colony's use; and such offender shall also suffer all the pains and penalties of perjury, as he should or ought if the said oath or affirmation had been made in a court of record.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if

at any time hereafter, a vessel shall go with, or without, a clearance, as obtained aforesaid, unto any port or place, subject to or within the dominions of the French king, such vessel, together with her cargo, upon her return to, or arrival at Newport, or any other port or place within this colony, shall be forfeited;—one half to, and for the use of the colony, and the remainder to him or them that shall inform and prosecute for the same, in any court of record within the colony.

And for rendering this act still more fully effectual,—

It is further enacted, that all judges, justices, sheriffs and other ministers of the law, whatsoever, in this colony, be, and they are hereby directed and required to use their utmost endeavors to discover and bring to justice all and every the offenders that shall be guilty of the breach of this act.

And be it further enacted, that when any person or persons shall complain to, or inform any of the authorities, aforesaid, that he or they have just cause to suspect that a person who has returned to Newport or any other place or port within this colony, from parts beyond sea, hath violated this act; if such officer shall neglect or refuse to issue his warrant against the party so returned, for the seizing his vessel and cargo, until a trial shall be had thereon, he shall forfeit the sum of £1,000, to and for the colony's use, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within the colony, and forever thereafter be rendered incapable of sustaining any post or office therein; and the officer to whom such warrant is directed, if he refuse or neglect to execute the same, immediately upon receipt thereof, shall be liable to the same penalties, to be recovered in manner aforesaid.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that James Honeyman, Peter Bours and George Brown, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to consider of an allowance to be made the judges of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, for their sitting at the trial of criminals, and make report unto this Assembly at their next session.

An it is further voted and resolved, that what shall be al-

lowed at the next session of Assembly, the said judges shall receive the like allowance for all criminal cases that shall be tried before that time.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all officers that have received money for the colony's use, shall, when they render the same into the treasury, pay all the Crown Point bills that they received amongst said money, and had in their hands at the time of passing the act for sinking said bills, with the money granted to the colony for His Majesty ; and also all such bills as they shall hereafter receive, and that they do the same on oath or solemn affirmation.

Whereas, John Tirril, a subject to the French king, now confined in His Majesty's jail, in Newport, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth, that although he is a Frenchman by birth, yet he was educated and continues to be a Protestant, having lived more than five years among the English ; that at present he hath not wherewithal to support himself, and therefore prayed liberty to sail out of this place for a livelihood, as he hath done for the two last years, or at least grant him an allowance sufficient for his subsistence ; on consideration whereof,—

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that if the petitioner will take the oath of allegiance unto His Majesty King George the Second, he shall be discharged from jail ; that otherwise, the committee of war send him off to some neutral port, by the first opportunity ; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport, make inquiry whether the said John Tirril has any estate, and if he has not sufficient to support himself, that he be supported at the charge of the colony until he makes oath, or is sent off.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the following articles be, and hereby are, made the heads of instructions to be observed by the commissioners appointed to go to Albany, and wait upon His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun :

1. That they present an address to His Excellency, in be-

half of this colony, assuring him of their readiness to obey and fulfil all such orders and directions as he shall honor them with for His Majesty's service, agreeably to the abilities of this colony.

2. That they lay an exact state of the colony before His Excellency ; as to fortifications, cannon, warlike and military stores, the number of inhabitants, the state of the treasury, and funds for supplying it.

3. That they beg His Lordship to lay their defenceless condition before His Majesty, in the most favorable light.

4. That they pray His Lordship to afford the colony such an allowance for the provisions and warlike stores furnished by them, to the provincial forces the present year, as may be agreeable to His Majesty's gracious intentions, signified to all his colonies, by his secretary of state.

5. That they endeavor to prevail with His Lordship, to settle and ascertain the proper and equitable proportions and quotas of men and other aids that each colony ought to furnish towards the common cause of defending their country, that on future requisitions, His Lordship send to each colony for the specific number their duty requires them to send ; and that the commissioners, at their return, lay His Lordship's determination before the General Assembly, for their approbation or rejection.

6. That they treat with His Lordship, in respect to hiring of the crown a sum of money, in case the colony should have occasion, and think proper to hire it.

7. That the committee receive a commission for these purposes, signed by the secretary, and sealed with the colony's seal, by order of the General Assembly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, James Honeyman and Daniel Updike, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill respecting persons disaffected to His Majesty, and lay the same before this Assembly, at their next session. .

God save the King.



*H. Fox, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.\**

Whitehall, March 13th, 1756.

Gentlemen :—I have acquainted you in my other letter of this date, with the King's having appointed the Earl of Loudoun to be commander in chief of all His Majesty's forces in North America ; but as it will be some time before His Lordship or Major General Abercrombie (who is to be the next in command to him,) can set out from hence, the King has directed Colonel Webb (who will forward this letter to you,) to embark immediately for North America, and to take upon him the command of the forces there, till the arrival of Lord Loudoun, or Major General Abercrombie; you will, therefore, correspond with Colonel Webb, and give him all necessary lights and assistances, in the same manner you were directed to do to the late General Braddock.

It having been represented that a considerable number of the foreign settlers in America might be more willing to enter into the King's service, if they were commanded by officers of their own country, an act of Parliament has been passed, of which I send you enclosed a printed copy, enabling His Majesty to grant commissions to a certain number of German, Swiss and Dutch Protestants, who have served as officers or engineers; and as they have already engaged, they will embark with all expedition, in order to assist in raising and commanding such of the foreign Protestants in North America, as shall be able and willing to serve with the rest of the forces upon this occasion; and it is the King's pleasure, that you should give any of the said officers who may come into your government, all the assistance in your power, in the execution of this service.

It being of the greatest importance that His Majesty should, in the present situation of affairs, be truly and exactly informed of the real state of defence of all his colonies in America, as well in relation to the ordnance and stores of war, which are in each colony, respectively, as to the forts and fortifications, and the number of their inhabitants, it is the King's pleasure, that you should prepare and transmit to the Earl of Loudoun, or the commander in chief of His Majesty's forces, for the time being, an exact and particular account thereof, with respect to the colony under your government, in which you are to express the present actual state and quantity of the cannon, small arms, ammunition and other ordnance and military stores, belonging to the said colony, either in the public magazines, or in the possession of the militia, or other private persons; together with the true state of all places, either already fortified, or which you judge forthwith necessary to be fortified, with your opinion at large in what manner His Majesty may further contribute to the security and defence of the said colony; and also, as exact an account as you can obtain, of what number the militia is composed, and how armed, mustered and trained.

I am, gentleman, your most obedient humble servant, H. FOX.  
To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

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\* This letter, with those which follow, to that of the 13th of May, 1756, inclusive, were not discovered till it was too late to insert them in that part of this volume to which they belong.

*Major General Johnson, to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort Johnson, April 2d, 1756.

Sir:—I have received a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, bearing date from Whitehall, the 11th November last, in which are the following paragraphs, which I judge it my duty to communicate to you.

“The King is pleased to order, that you do signify to the officers and private men who have so eminently distinguished themselves, that their resolute and undaunted behaviour has given His Majesty the greatest satisfaction.

The alacrity and despatch with which these reinforcements were raised, is greatly to be commended.

The colonies which have so readily and vigorously exerted themselves on this great occasion, will always find favor and protection from His Majesty.”

I am, most respectfully, sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

WM. JOHNSON.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Memorial of Richard Partridge, Agent for Rhode Island, to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.*

The memorial of Richard Partridge, agent for the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, humbly sheweth:

That some years since, the said colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations directed your memorialist to apply to the King, and to represent that they had built a fortification at the entrance of the harbor of Newport, their principal town, which cost them upwards of £10,000, currency, which was more at that time than £3,000, sterling; and had purchased twenty-four cannon for the same, which cost between £600 and £700, sterling, all at their own charge, for their defence against an enemy.

Whereupon, your memorialist did humbly prefer a petition to the King, conformably thereto, in behalf of the said colony, signifying their request of being supplied with twenty cannon more, from eighteen to twenty-four pounders, and a quantity of shot for each gun; which petition was referred to the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, who, after hearing your memorialist's allegations, in behalf of the said colony, did, on the 14th of July, 1735, make their report, that they were of opinion, it would be of service to the colony, if His Majesty would be graciously pleased to grant their request, which report is yet lying in the council office.

That upon further application, afterwards made by your memorialist, to the then lords committee of council, they were pleased, on the 20th day of September, 1744, to refer the consideration of this affair to the Duke of Montague, master general of the ordnance, and in case he had no objection thereto, that then he should cause an estimate to be prepared of the expense thereof, and report the same to the said committee.

That, thereupon, the said master general of the ordnance caused an estimate to be made of the said twenty pieces of cannon, with proper stores appertaining,

amounting in the whole, to £1,812 14s. ; and on the 6th of November, 1744, a report of the same was signed by the Duke of Montague, and sent to the lords committee of council, accordingly.

That the said lords committee did afterwards, viz. : on the 5th of February, 1744, take into consideration the report of said estimate, and made an order that your memorialist should write over for an exact plan of the said fort, and when received, to lay the same before the said lords committee of council.

That your memorialist did write over to the Governor of Rhode Island, accordingly, and received from thence a plan of their fortification, which he laid before the said lords committee, agreeably to their order ; but this matter, notwithstanding your memorialist's endeavor, (being delayed) nothing has ever yet been obtained, in consequence of the aforesaid application, till peace was concluded.

That your memorialist has lately received advice from the Governor of the said colony, dated April 17th, 1755, intimating that, as now again they seem to be threatened with a war, and have been strictly commanded by His Majesty to do every thing in their power to put their colony in the best posture of defence they can, and that, in obedience thereto, they have ordered their fortification to be repaired and enlarged ; and have again directed your memorialist properly to apply for such a number of cannon and stores of such sizes as may render their fortification complete, according to its enlargements now making ; and the said Governor hath also written to Sir Thos. Robinson, secretary of state, thereabout, and sent him a complete plan of their fortification ; a copy of the Governor's letter, thereupon, is hereunto annexed.

That the General Assembly of the said colony, have lately granted a tax on the people, of £10,000, currency ; and the town of Newport, in the said colony, £5,000 more, to be wholly appropriated to the repairing and enlarging the fort.

That Rhode Island is situated about seventy miles from Boston, in the Massachusetts Bay, and separated from the main land, only by a river of about two or three miles over ; and in case it should be invaded in the condition it is at present, it may become (as it is conceived,) an easy prey to the enemy ; in which case, they may cross a narrow river, and march an army into the heart of the Province of the Massachusetts.

And for that, as your memorialist has been lately advised from their Governor, Stephen Hopkins, Esq., of the 10th of January last, that in the late expedition, undertaken for reducing Crown Point, this little colony has already expended more than £15,000, sterling ; the whole of which sum lies as a debt upon it.

Therefore, in regard the said colony, as your memorialist apprehends, hath done, and is now about doing, to the utmost they are able, in building and repairing their fort, and formerly purchasing the said twenty-four cannon, before they would become chargeable to the crown.

Your memorialist most humbly prays, that you would be pleased to advise the King to grant the said colony such a number of cannon, as may render their fortification complete, from eighteen to twenty-four pounders, with shot for each gun, and other stores suitable for them. All which, is humbly submitted.

London, 4th mo., or April 2d, 1755.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, April 4th, 1756.

Sir :—I am favored with Your Honor's letter, of the 2d instant, and am glad to find that you have reason to be fully persuaded that the colony of Rhode Island will augment their numbers of men for the present expedition, in proportion to the other colonies concerned ; and I can't but much approve of the prudent method you intend to observe for preventing any embarrassment in the enlisting the men.

Four companies, consisting of two hundred men, carpenters and axemen, are gone from this province for Albany and Fort William Henry ; the committee for forwarding the transportation of provisions and stores, &c., set out for Albany about ten days ago. In their way to Albany, they are to forward to Albany, the ox teams ; and the sooner the carpenters, guards, and ox teams of your colony set out for the same place, the better.

I have appointed Major General Winslow, to the chief command, which I hope will be agreeable to Your Honor's government.

I will take care to appoint a court of admiralty for the trial of Joseph Hughes, as you desire.

I am, with great regard and esteem, sir,

Your Honour's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Sir Charles Hardy to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort George, New York, 18th April, 1756.

Sir :—I have your favor of the 7th instant ; also one from the gentlemen appointed by your General Assembly, a committee to transact the business relative to the expedition against Crown Point, during their recess.

I am extremely glad Your Honor is so forward to think of sending some of your companies to Albany ; but I must acquaint you, that there is a very small proportion of boards in that city, for the building batteaux and boats, occasioned by the openness of this winter,—there has been no sleighing, to draw logs to the saw mills ; three batteaux I am now building for the use of the forces raising in the pay of this Province, for this expedition, I am obliged to construct in this city.

The measure Your Honor proposes for the transporting your provisions, stores, &c., from Albany to Lake George, is well judged ; the Massachusetts and Connecticut propose the same method ; the northern counties of this Province are so exhausted in waggons, from last year's service, that they cannot, with the assistance of the lower counties, furnish a sufficient number for the service against Crown Point, and the expedition to be carried on by His Majesty's troops to the westward.

The Assembly of this Province are to meet next week, when I shall lay before them your letter, desiring that you may be excused paying the duty for rum sent to this city, to be sold for the purposes you mention. All provisions and stores, subject to duties, on being imported into this Province, that are designed for the use of

the forces of the colonies concerned in the intended expedition, and as such are to be sent to Lake George, are free of those duties, as last year; but I cannot give you encouragement to expect that the Assembly will consent to remit that duty upon the foot that you desire it.

With respect to the particular advantages accruing to this Province, from this intended expedition, its situation exposes our frontiers to the open incursions of the French; and the encroachments made by them in it, I cannot but look upon as a national and common cause; and that the advantages arising from our success upon the present undertaking, is equally so. These, I offer to you as my thoughts, without having regard to any local consideration for the particular interest of this, or any other Province. However, you may be assured, I shall at all times use my endeavors to tender you my best services, and shall take the sentiments of the Assembly, as you desire, and shall communicate to you their determination upon it.

Yesterday I received several letters from Albany, and Sir William Johnson, enclosing me copies of others, from Col. Mercer and Capt. Williams, at the Great Carrying Place, informing me that a body of French and Indians have posted themselves, and are surrounded with pickets, about twelve miles to the eastward of Oswego; and that Col. Mercer has further information from some Indians, that another body of Indians, &c., are on their march from Niagara; which, together with the first mentioned, are to form an attack on Oswego. This is the substance of my information, with respect to the motions of the enemy.

General Shirley's absence, and great distance from the scene of action, makes it impossible for him to give the proper orders in due time to stop the progress of the enemy in that quarter; the want of which, enables them to make advances that I fear will tend greatly to the prejudice of His Majesty's service, and the interest of these provinces.

Under these circumstances, I have, by the return of the express, offered my thoughts to the commanding officers at the head quarters, and recommended to them to pursue such measures as to me appears most proper on the present emergency. Col. Bradstreet is set off with a very considerable number of whale boats and batteaux, with provisions for Oswego, which they have much wanted. I wish he may arrive safe with his convoy. I think his voyage will be hazardous, if the enemy gets footing on the waters leading to that fort.

In short, from the accounts I have received, things do not appear to be so well regulated as they necessarily should be for promoting the public service; and if the French once post, it will cost us much more to remove them, than it would to have prevented their gaining any such advantage.

By my letters from Sir William Johnson, the last of the 12th instant, which I received yesterday, I think we have at last brought about an accommodation with the Delawares. His accounts are as follows:

In his first letter, viz.: "As I finish my letter, two one-eyed Indians, on whom I can depend, brought me an account that the delegates sent to treat with the Delawares, were returned, and say, that they have settled that unhappy breach between them and us; they are to be here in two or three days (meaning Fort Johnson). when I shall be able to give Your Excellency a true statement of their proceedings at that meeting. They further add, that the Delawares have engaged to join us with the Five Nations, against the French."

In his last letter, he says, "This evening, some of the delegates sent to treat with the Delawares, arrived here, (meaning Mount Johnson), with several of the

Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Onondagoes and Mohawks. I have only time to tell Your Excellency, that they assure me, they have made up that unhappy affair, and that the Delawares, expect those of their people who may be prisoners, to be delivered up as soon as possible; and then they promise to deliver up those they have of ours; they say they will join the Six Nations against the French, if they desire it. I shall write Your Excellency more about it, as soon as I hear all they have to say."

Thus far, I hope, through the interposition of the Six Nations, this affair is in a fair way of being brought to a happy issue. The Mohawks have sent four of their sachems to invite our river Indians to remove to their castles, and I hear propose giving them a portion of their lands to settle upon.

The trade carried on by the colonies to the Dutch Islands, &c., will not only amply supply the French Islands, but will doubtless encourage them to attempt throwing in large quantities to Louisbourg, from whence Canada may easily be furnished. It appears to me absolutely necessary to prevent all supplies of provisions going from these colonies, at this time; and the only method to answer this good purpose, must be by proper laws passed in the provision colonies, prohibiting such an exportation.

The Assembly of this Province are to meet soon, when I shall recommend to them to pass such a law, which if they should come into, will not prevent the enemy's being supplied in the manner before mentioned, without the neighbouring governments concur in the same measure; I have made this proposition to them, and beg leave to recommend it to your consideration, and beg your thoughts upon it, and the resolutions of your Assembly, if you think proper to recommend it to them. I must beg leave to make this addition to it, that if the Assembly should decline passing the necessary laws for this purpose, that the governments should agree to lay an embargo, which will most effectually answer the end desired. I shall have no difficulty in this measure with the concurrence of the neighboring governments, and think I can answer for that of His Majesty's Council of this Province.

I am, with great regard,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

CHAS. HARDY.

To the Hon. Governor Hopkins.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Fairfield, Connecticut, April 26, 1756.

Sir:—I am arrived at this place, in my way to New York, from whence I propose to set out for Albany in two or three days.

As the success of our operations, in the ensuing campaign, will in a very great measure depend on our troops destined for Crown Point, taking the field as early as may be, I must entreat Your Honor to forward the march or transportation of your colony's forces as soon as possible.

I can't but hope to have them (the whole forces of all the colonies concerned in that expedition,) at Lake George, by the middle of May, at furthest; and that three parts of them, at least, will be removed there before that time.

I know of nothing that is so likely to prove fatal to the expedition, as a late campaign would, which I hope every government will consider.

I am, with great regard and esteem, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant, W. SHIRLEY.

P. S. Your Honor will be pleased to excuse the hurry and paper of this letter.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*General Winslow to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, May 2, 1756.

Sir:—As His Excellency General Shirley, is out of the government, I thought it my duty to inform Your Honor how affairs are circumstanced in this Province, in regard to the Crown Point expedition, which I am pressing forward, and flatter myself our levies are complete. We have twelve companies gone forward; the remains of the thirty-five hundred men, I have ordered to parade here, at Springfield and Worcester, on the 4th instant, and shall begin to march on the 6th. Our provisions, warlike stores, &c., are chiefly gone, the last vessel ready to sail; should be glad that the quota furnished by the government under Your Honor's command, may be forwarded as soon as possible, with provisions, &c.

As I look upon it, our success greatly depends on our despatch, have enclosed to Your Honor the laws passed by this government, with relation to the expedition. As I am informed there was a dispute, last year, among the officers, with regard to the government of the army, our Province thought convenient to pass the act chapter twentieth; would submit it to Your Honor and the colony, whether it would not be best for the whole to be under one form of discipline; and should this act be approved of, the same may pass into a law in your government also.

I would further inform Your Honor, that this Province, having taken into consideration the annual pension I receive from the crown, which entirely depends on my life, have, besides £800, lawful money, advanced for my table, granted me £400, same currency, in case I arrive at Lake George, and so unfortunate as to die in the service afterwards, which is for the benefit of my family; and if approved of by the colony, it would be a satisfaction to me that a grant of that kind, for a sum agreeable, might be made, as every one should be careful of their own house.

Am determined to be at Newport, the 11th, at Hartford, the 15th; where I hope to consult thoroughly of the plan of operation for the ensuing campaign, with the gentlemen of your government, and that things will be to your satisfaction; and am, with my best regards,

Your Honor's most humble servant,

JOHN WINSLOW.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, May, 1756.

Sir:—Having received letters from Richard Spry, Esq., commander in chief of all His Majesty's ships in North America, concerning the distressed condition His Majesty's ships are in at Halifax, for want of men, I thought it my duty to acquaint you, that notwithstanding the pains we have been all at to raise seamen, that they are still three hundred short of their complements; and that without the assistance of the governors of the several provinces, in raising men, it will be impossible for His Majesty's ships to protect these colonies, prevent supplies from France to Canada, and other places, or block up Louisburg, as occasion may require.

I cannot say but that I have been the more emboldened in taking the liberty of troubling you in this manner, by the knowledge I have of the ready assistance you have always so laudably given His Majesty's forces, on the like occasions, by land; and as His Majesty has been graciously pleased to give a bounty of thirty shillings, sterling, to every man who shall voluntarily enter into the fleet, by your making it publicly known, may probably induce many to come into the service.

You'll be pleased, in your answer, to mention what hopes we may have from your assistance, that I may judge whether or not it will be necessary to send round a man of war to Newport.

I am, with the utmost respect, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

To Governor Hopkins.

W. SHIRLEY.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Albany, 12th May, 1756.

Sir:—Before I left Boston, the Massachusetts government passed an act of Assembly, to subject the troops raised within this Province for the expedition against Crown Point, to the King's articles of war, a copy of which act, I have ordered the Province secretary to send Your Honor; and I look upon this point to be so essential an one for keeping up a proper command and discipline among the provincial troops, as well as regulars, that I must recommend it to Your Honor in the strongest terms, as I have to all the other governments concerned in this expedition, to pass a like act with regard to their troops.

The season of the year for opening the campaign, is now far advanced, and Your Honor is sensible how much the success of our operation against the enemy depends upon our entering early upon action.

I must therefore beg you would hasten the march of your troops to Albany, as fast as possible; and take every measure for immediately completing your magazines of provisions and stores, at Fort Edward and Fort William Henry, providing a sufficient number of oxen, horses and carriages for transporting them to the latter of these two forts, and of batteaux and other craft, for transporting them from Lake George to Ticonderoga, &c.; all which should be done without the least loss of time.

I am, with great regard and esteem, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*I. West to Governor Hopkins.*

Treasury Chambers, 13th May, 1756.

Sir:—You receive, enclosed, a copy of the King's warrant, for paying the £115,000, granted by Parliament to the colonies of New England, New York and New Jersey, in America, as a free gift and reward for their past services, and an encouragement to them to continue to exert themselves with vigor in the defence of His Majesty's just rights and possessions.

You will see, by the warrant, the proportion allotted to your government, which



Messieurs. Thomlinson and Hanburg have shipped on board His Majesty's ship Sterling Castle, Captain Cornish; of which I acquaint you, by order of the lords commissioners of His Majesty's treasury; and am, sir,

Your most humble servant, I. WEST.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Secretary Fox to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 17th May, 1756.

Gentlemen:—His Majesty having found it necessary to declare war against the French King, has been pleased, in a council held this day, at Kensington, for that purpose, to sign the enclosed declaration, and to order that the same be published to-morrow, by the heralds-at-arms, in the usual places, and with the accustomed formalities.

I am commanded to signify to you, the King's pleasure, that you should cause the said declaration of war to be proclaimed in the colony under your government, that His Majesty's subjects, having this notice, may take care to prevent any mischief which otherwise they might suffer from the enemy; and do their duty in their several stations, to distress and annoy the subjects of France.

And His Majesty would have you be very rigorous and severe in preventing any ammunition or stores of any kind, from being carried to them; and you are to use all proper methods that may be most effectual for that purpose.

I am, gentleman, your most obedient humble servant, H. FOX.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

P. S. His Majesty has been pleased to order letters of marque, or commissions to privateers, to be granted, in the usual manner.

I have received your letters of November 14th.

*General Winslow to Governor Hopkins.*

Camp at Half Moon, June 14th, 1756.

Sir:—I look upon myself obliged in duty, to acquaint all my constituents, who have reposed trust in me, with the command of the troops raised for the reduction of Crown Point, to give a particular detail of affairs.

When inclination joins with duty, as is now the case when writing to Your Honor, the case is still more easy; and I with pleasure collected the returns enclosed, and give you joy that the colony under your command, comes nearest up to their quota, and hope methods will be taken that not a man of yours will be wanting, and that soon, as I hope our provisions will be up in all, this month; and am determined not to be idle, be our forces more or less; have no time to write the committee of war. Your Honor will, if you think proper, communicate to those gentlemen.

Am, sir, with regards,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN WINSLOW.

To Governor Hopkins.

P. S. Col. Harris is not yet arrived, nor is the act on which your troops are raised, and to be regulated; which, in changeable times, may be necessary.

*Secretary Fox, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, June 18, 1756.

Gentlemen :—I am commanded to signify to you the King's pleasure, that in case any of the commanders of His Majesty's ships shall have occasion to apply to you, to set on shore, in the colony under your government, any French prisoners, you should receive and treat them in the same manner, as was practiced during the last war, or in such other manner, as you shall think most conducive to His Majesty's service.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant, H. FOX.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Sir Charles Lawrence to Governor Hopkins.*

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1st July, 1756.

Sir :—I am well informed that many of the French inhabitants transported last year from this Province, and distributed among the different colonies upon the continent, have procured small vessels and embarked on board them, in order to return by coasting from colony to colony ; and that several of them are now actually on their way ; and as their success in this enterprise would not only frustrate the design of this government in sending them away at so prodigious an expense, but would also greatly endanger the security of the Province, especially at this juncture ; I think it my indispensable duty to entreat Your Excellency to use your utmost endeavors to prevent the accomplishment of so pernicious an undertaking, by destroying such vessels as those in your colony may have prepared for that purpose ; and all that may attempt to pass through any part of your government, either by land or water in their way hither.

I would by no means have given Your Excellency this trouble, were I not perfectly well assured how fatal the return of these people is likely to prove to His Majesty's interest in this part of the world.

I am, sir, Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

CHAS. LAWRENCE.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Sir William Johnson to Major General Abercrombie, giving an account of the treaty with the Indians ; transmitted by Sir Chas. Hardy to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort Johnson, 12th July, 1756.

Sir :—Last night I concluded all matters with the king, or head of the Shawanese, and with the king or head of the Delaware Indians, who live on the Susquehanna ; the former at Wyoming, the latter at Ieaogo.

The Shawanese chief declares that none of his people were concerned in any of the hostilities committed on the frontiers of the southern provinces ; that they have strictly adhered to their treaties and engagements with the English, and are determined to continue acting upon the same principles.

The Delaware chief has confessed that some of his people, deluded by the French and the Indians in their interest, did join with them in their late hostilities and depredations, on the frontiers of the said governments; that they have seen their error, laid down the axe, and do repent of their past misconduct; will, for the future, govern themselves by the example of their uncle, the Six Nations; and in conjunction with them, will take up and use the hatchet against the French, and all their adherents. This, he ratified in the most public and solemn manner, before the deputies of the Six Nations, who were present; and engaged that all the English prisoners, who had fallen to the share of his people, should be forthwith delivered up.

I presented the war belt, which was accepted by both these chiefs, who sung the war song (which is a sacred engagement amongst the Indians), with singular zeal and warmth.

I think it proper to lose no time in acquainting Your Excellency with the happy issue of this important affair, in which I have been successful beyond my expectations:

The Delaware chief, who was the principal object, has also promised to use his utmost endeavors to withdraw those of his nation whom the French have seduced to go and live in the neighborhood of Fort Du Quesne.

As I see by the public prints, the Governor of New Jersey hath published a declaration of war against the Delaware Indians, which, as he could not but know they were expected at the Onondaga meeting, with the hopes of bringing matters to an accommodation, was, in my humble opinion, a premature and very unadvised measure; and the Governor of Pennsylvania, he must also have known, had, upon this account, suspended any hostilities in consequence of his declaration of war, some time ago published.

If from these, or any of the colonies, any hostilities should be first committed against those said Indians, the Six Nations will, in a body, resent it, and all our Indian affairs be put into a fatal confusion, which, I believe, no person will be able to compose; I hope, therefore, Your Excellency will judge it proper to communicate with the utmost despatch, the general account which I have now given you, to the southern governments. I would have sent the same to Sir Charles Hardy, in order that he might have transmitted it to the neighboring governments to the southward; but as that would have taken up more time, I thought it best to refer it to Your Excellency, who, I hope, will, if your sentiments correspond with mine, enforce them with your own opinion.

I shall only add, that there appears every kind of moral evidence to believe the uprightness and sincerity of the promises and engagements of these chiefs, in behalf of their people; and that as soon as a copy of the particular proceedings of this congress can be got ready, I shall transmit one to Sir Charles Hardy, to forward to the southern governments.

I hope, some day this week, to have the honor of waiting upon you; and am, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM JOHNSON.

To His Excellency Major General Abercrombie.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

New York, July 13th, 1756.

Sir:—Some days ago, I had the honor to receive at Albany, two letters from the Right Honorable Mr. Fox, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, dated the 13th and 31st March last, acquainting me, in the former, with His Majesty's appointment of the Earl of Loudoun to be general and commander in chief of his forces in North America; and in the latter, signifying to me, that it having been represented to the King, that my presence in England may be very useful and necessary, to give many lights and informations relative to the state of affairs in North America, it was His Majesty's pleasure that I should repair to England with all possible expedition; and that, for this purpose, His Majesty had given directions to the lords of the admiralty, who have ordered a frigate to receive me on board, and to proceed with me directly to England.

And I have the pleasure of being acquainted in the former of these letters "that the disposition His Majesty has thought proper to make of the command of his forces in North America, is not owing to any dissatisfaction with my services; but on the contrary, it is the King's intention to give me a new mark of his royal favor."

As I think it not improper for me to give Your Honor and the province under your government, notice of my departure for England, so I am desirous of taking this opportunity to acknowledge their exertion of a most ready spirit for the defence of His Majesty's just rights and dominions, against the encroachments of the French, upon this continent, ever since I have had the honor to have any share in the command upon it; to assure them of my best wishes for their welfare, and that of His Majesty's other northern colonies; and that I shall think myself happy in being able, upon my arrival in England, to give such lights and informations relative to the state of affairs in North America, at this most critical conjuncture, as may best promote His Majesty's service, and the general interest of his subjects there.

I am, with great regard and esteem, sir,

Your Honor's most humble and most obedient servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

New York, 23d July, 1756.

Sir:—His Majesty having been graciously pleased to appoint me, by his commission, under the great seal, to be general and commander in chief of all his forces in North America, I take this first opportunity to acquaint you of my arrival this morning. As I have been unfortunately so long detained in my passage, I find it indispensably necessary that I go immediately to the army. I must proceed accordingly.

I herewith send Your Honor the letters of Mr. Fox, His Majesty's secretary of state, and of the Earl of Halifax, His Majesty's first lord commissioner of the board of trade. I do, from your zeal and attachment to His Majesty's service, and from

the loyalty and good dispositions of your people, depend upon all assistance that the state and circumstances of your colony is able to give me. .

I will beg Your Honor to assure the good people of your colony, that they may depend upon my protection, and my utmost care to avoid and remove (as far as the circumstances of a country become the seat of war, will admit,) every thing that may any way burthen or hurt the interest of any individual.

I shall, on all occasions, and in every thing relative to the service and interest of the colonies, communicate with Your Honor ; and beg at all times to be favored from you, with all matters of advice and intelligence, relative to the same ; and shall impatiently expect the returns you are directed to send.

I beg you to be assured, that I am, with the highest esteem, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient and most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

P. S. I must beg Your Honor to send me, forthwith, copies of the acts or resolves of your Assemblies, by which the troops that are to act against Crown Point, have been raised, and of the instructions for their proceeding. L.

*Col. Henry Babcock to the Committee of War, Rhode Island.*

Albany, 7th August, 1756.

Honored Gentlemen:—Some time last month, Gen. Abercrombie proposed a question to Gen. Winslow, asking him what would be the effect, if the regular troops were ordered to join the provincials, on their intended expedition ?

Gen. Winslow told Gen. Abercrombie, that he would be glad if such a junction could be made ; but said, that he imagined it would be almost an entire dissolution of the provincial forces ; that it would not be in his power to restrain them from quitting the service, but said that he would choose to lay it before his council.

He accordingly, when he arrived at Fort Edward, called a council of the field officers, and laid it before them.

They, after reading the question, chose a committee, to draft an answer to Gen. Abercrombie's question, of which I happened to be one. Col. Fitch was sent down with the answer, to Gen. Abercrombie. My Lord Loudoun arrived at Albany before Col. Fitch got there ; My Lord received the answer, and wrote to Gen. Winslow, desiring of him to come to Albany and confer with him. Gen. Winslow, who was at Fort Wm. Henry, did not come, but wrote an answer to His Lordship's letter, which I was ordered to bring to My Lord Loudoun, who seemed to be somewhat surpris'd that Gen. Winslow did not think proper to confer with him.

His Lordship told me, with whom I was a good while alone in his private chamber, that he had not written home since his arrival ; and that he had delayed writing, in hopes that there might be a happy accommodation betwixt the regulars and the provincials. He further told me, he had desired Gen. Winslow to come down to Albany, and that he did not at all doubt but that in half an hour, he would accommodate affairs to his, and all his officers' satisfaction.

Cols. Gridley and Ruggles are both at the lake, who are very averse to any junction, even upon the best terms that could be proposed ; yet they are averse to it, and say it publicly.

I imagine that they advised Gen. Winslow not to go down, expecting that My

Lord would propose such a junction, that Gen. Winslow could not, in honor, refuse.

I have heard that Sir Charles Hardy has subjected (or intends to do it,) his regiment under the immediate command of My Lord Loudoun, and will doubtless thereby save to the government all the expense of his provisions and the transporting them, which I imagine would be the best thing you could possibly do with your regiment.

Compliments to all inquiring friends.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

HENRY BABCOCK.

To the Committee of War.

*Charles Apthorp & Son to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, 31st August, 1756.

Sir:—Herewith you will receive a packet from Messrs. Thomlinson & Hanburg, enclosing an account of the cost and charges on the money purchased by them for the grant of Parliament to your colony, and shipped by the Stirling Castle man of war, which was to have been delivered here; but by orders from the lords of the admiralty, the captain has landed it at New York, and has left it in the care of Sir Charles Hardy, to whom we have written, and desired it may be delivered to Mr. William Bayard, our agent there; upon application to whom, and the delivery of the four enclosed receipts, signed to him, it will be delivered to your order.

You will observe Messrs. Thomlinson & Hanburg, out of a sincere regard for the interest of the colonies, have generously given up their commissions, and, as we have an equal regard for them, we beg they will also accept of ours.

Enclosed, you have our order on Mr. Bayard, for six chests of silver, and one chest of gold, as per Messrs. Thomlinson & Hanburg's account; amount £6,684 12s 3d., sterling.

We are, Your Honor's most obedient and most humble servants,

CHAS. APTHORP & SON.

To the Honorable the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Governor Shurley to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, September 13, 1756.

Sir:—I hereby acquaint Your Honor, that I have caused to be raised within this Province, six hundred men, to make up the deficiency that happens to be of the number of troops this government had agreed to supply for the army of the provincial forces, for His Majesty's service, against Crown Point, which are now actually on their march; as also, that I have issued orders for one thousand men to be drawn out of the regiments of militia, in the western parts of this Province, to hold themselves in readiness to march forthwith to the succor of the provincial forces, on any emergency, and advices thereof received from the Right Honorable the Earl of Loudoun, or Gen. Winslow, agreeably to the resolution of our General Court, copy whereof, you have herewith.

And I would earnestly desire Your Honor to use your utmost endeavors, that

your government might, in all proper ways, without delay, do every thing on their part to answer the present emergency of His Majesty's service, and the expectations of the Right Honorable the Earl of Loudoun, signified in the circular letters to the several governments herein concerned.

I am, with truth and regard, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 14th day of October, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that a regiment of four hundred men, including the sixty ordered to be raised by this Assembly, at their last session, and excluding officers, be forthwith raised in this colony, and sent as a reinforcement to the forces already raised by this colony, and gone on the expedition against Crown Point; and that James Honeyman, Jeremiah Lippitt, Job Randall and John Walton, Esqs., with Mr. Samuel Ward, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for that purpose, and present the same unto this Assembly, as soon as may be.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write a letter by the next post, to His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, informing His Lordship of the true reasons that his first letter to this government was not answered.

An Act for raising, subsisting and paying four hundred men, to be sent to Albany, as a reinforcement to the army gone upon the expedition against Crown Point.

Whereas, His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, general and commander in chief of all His Majesty's forces in North America, hath demanded an aid of men from this colony; and at the same time acquainted the government that he hath received information that a large body of French troops were on their march towards the English settlements; in compliance with His Excellency's demand, and to the end that every thing in the power of this colony may be done, for the defence of the country;—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a regiment of four hundred effective men, exclusive of officers, and including the sixty lately ordered by this Assembly, to be divided into eight companies, be forthwith raised, at the expense of the colony, and sent to Albany, with all possible despatch, to be under the command of His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun; and to continue in the service for a term not exceeding two months from the time of their enlistment, unless the exigency of affairs may make their longer continuance necessary.

And for the more easy and expeditious raising of said men,—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor the Governor, forthwith issue his warrants to the proper officers to call together all the companies of horse and foot in this colony, on Thursday, the 21st of this instant October, in order to enlist or draught out of them a sufficient number of men, to complete the aforesaid regiment; and that all male persons, between the years of sixteen and sixty, in this colony, be, upon this occasion, put into the lists of the several companies within the district of which they respectively dwell, excepting the Governor and Deputy Governor, assistants, house of deputies, justices of the superior and inferior courts, secretary, general treasurer, clerks of the superior and inferior courts, sheriffs, town council men, town clerks, justices of the peace, commissioned officers in the several troops and companies, ministers of the gospel, and all those who have sustained the offices of Governor, Deputy Governor, and assistants, and justices of the



superior courts, together with all those who have made or shall make oath or affirmation that it is against their conscience to bear arms.

And that in case there shall not be a sufficient number of men enlisted timely on Thursday, the commissioned officers are hereby required and directed immediately to make up the said number of four hundred men, by impressing or taking them by lot, out of the several companies, according to the following proportion, that is to say :

Out of the town of Newport, seventy-three effective men ; Portsmouth, ten ; Jamestown, four ; Middletown, seven ; Tiverton, thirteen ; Little Compton, twelve ; Providence, thirty-five ; Smithfield, twenty ; Scituate, sixteen ; Glocester, sixteen ; Cumberland, ten ; Cranston, sixteen ; Westerly, twenty-four ; North Kingstown, seventeen ; South Kingstown, sixteen ; Charlestown, eight ; Exeter, fourteen ; Richmond, nine ; Bristol, ten ; Warren, eleven ; Warwick, nineteen ; East Greenwich, fifteen ; West Greenwich, twelve ; and Coventry, thirteen.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all the companies of each town meet in one convenient place, to be appointed by the field officers, or one of them ; and that the town council attend the muster in each town, and ascertain the number each company shall furnish, agreeably to their respective lists, towards their town's proportion, as stated by this act ; and that it shall be determined by a plurality of voices in each company, whether its proportion of men be taken by impress or by lot ; and if an impress be determined, the captain or the other chief officer that shall preside, shall forthwith impress the number required ; but if it be determined they shall be taken by lot, every person's name, in the list of the company, shall be written on a scroll of paper, which being rolled up, shall be put into a hat or box ; and the number required, shall be fairly drawn out ; and those so impressed or drawn, shall be the men to go in this service, and be entitled to the same bounty and wages as those that voluntarily enlist.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

the field officers or the major part of them, or in their absence, the town council, be, and they are hereby, empowered to excuse any person that shall be impressed or taken by lot, who is really unfit for duty, or hath any other reasonable excuse; and that if more than one of any one family, shall be impressed or taken by lot, the first impressed or taken by lot, shall be retained, and the other dismissed; and the field officers, or the major part of them, shall order another or others to be impressed or taken by lot, in the room of him or them that shall be so excused; and that where any shall pay the fine or desert, the company out of which such person was taken, shall be ordered by the field officers to furnish another or others in his or their stead.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any field or other commissioned officer, shall neglect to do his duty either in calling the company together, or in procuring the number of men he is ordered to procure, he shall forfeit and pay, as a fine, the sum of £1,000, old tenor, to the use of the town in which he resides, to be levied by distraint of his goods and chattels, as is usual in such cases, by the sheriff or one of his deputies, by a warrant from the Governor, Deputy Governor, one of the assistants, or judges of the superior or inferior courts.

And that if any person who shall be appointed by the commissioned officers, to warn in the several companies, shall neglect doing his duty, he shall forfeit and pay as a fine, the sum of £500, old tenor, to and for the use of the town in which he resides, to be recovered in manner, as above said.

And that if any person, being duly warned, shall not make his appearance, he shall forfeit and pay as a fine, the sum of £100, old tenor, which shall be divided among the soldiers of the company to which the offender belongs, who shall voluntarily enlist and go in the service.

And that any person, who being impressed, or taken by lot out of any of the companies, shall absent himself, or refuse to serve in person, or shall not procure an able bodied man, to serve in his room, shall forfeit and pay, as a fine, the sum of

£100, which shall be immediately levied by a warrant of distress on his estate, as aforesaid; and shall also be divided among the soldiers of the company, who shall voluntarily enlist and go in the service; but if the estate of the offender cannot be found, he shall be apprehended as soon as may be, and sent up to the army, and there be placed in the room of an invalid of those already at the forts.

And to prevent the inconveniencies which may arise by any of the officers' not having taken their commissions,—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case the captains of any of the companies, or other of the commissioned officers, have not taken, or shall not take their commissions timely, the field officers may, and hereby are directed and required, to call such company or companies together, and to do the duty in every respect which ought to have been done by said captains or other commissioned officers.

And for encouragement to all persons to enlist in the defence of their country,—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every able bodied man, who will enlist, shall receive as a bounty, the sum of £4 10s., lawful money, on his enlistment, and thirty shillings, lawful money, wages per month, during his service; and every person who shall enlist, or be impressed or taken by lot, and goes in this service, shall be exempt from all arrests while he continues therein, except for some criminal offence.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commissioned officers furnish each man that goes from their company, and into the service, with a good blanket; and in case a sufficient number cannot be procured by purchase, the deficiency shall be made up by an impress; and the owners shall be allowed and paid by the committee of war, fifteen shillings, lawful money, for every such blanket purchased or impressed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committee of war furnish the officers in each town, with as much money as shall be necessary, to pay the bounties to the several men required of said town; and also furnish money.

kettles, powder and balls, together with all other necessary stores for their march ; and also provide cloth and materials for tents, and send the same with the soldiers, to be made up into tents if wanted ; or otherwise to be sold or sent back ; and that the committee of war be also empowered to appoint officers in the room of those who may refuse to accept.

*Protest.*

We protest against the within act, for the following reasons, viz. :

1. To the method of raising the men, namely, by draughting or impressing, because unequal and confined to a particular set of men.

2. To the exemptions made, because those therein excepted, ought, in our opinions, to stand the same chance with others ; and more especially as it behoves them to do it for example's sake.

JOS. WANTON, JR.,

WM. EARL.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to put a stop, until further orders from this Assembly, to the removal of a number of arms, which they, the Assembly, have been informed, are in the town of Newport ; one, whereof, hath been shown them, as a sample.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to send expresses to every colonel in the colony, and with each of those expresses a copy of the act for raising a regiment of four hundred men, to go as a reinforcement unto the troops raised by this colony, and already sent in the expedition against Crown Point ; and His Honor is further requested to insert the purport of said act in his warrant.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the wages of all the soldiers,

now in the service of this colony, be altered and augmented, that is to say: each soldier, instead of £16, old tenor, shall be paid the sum of thirty shillings, lawful money, per month.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, which by law was to have been begun and holden at East Greenwich, within and for the county of Kent, on the third Tuesday of this instant October, be, and the same is hereby adjourned to the first Tuesday in November next; whereof, all parties concerned, are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of war, be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered to purchase those guns that His Honor the Governor, hath detained, agreeably to the request made him by this Assembly for that purpose; and if there be not a sufficient number of said guns, that the committee purchase, upon the best terms they can, the number that shall be wanted, to equip the troops by this Assembly ordered to be raised; and in case said committee cannot purchase a sufficient number, that then they be, and hereby are, authorized and fully empowered to impress so many as will answer, to supply the deficiency.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers to command the regiment by this Assembly ordered to be raised:

His Honor the Governor, colonel.

Benjamin Wickham, Esq., lieutenant colonel.

Joseph Champlin, Esq., major.

Caleb Harker, Esq., adjutant.

Joseph Belcher, captain of the fourth company.

Wm. Richmond, Jr., " " fifth "

Joseph Winsor, " " sixth "

Joseph Coggeshall, " " seventh "

James Angel, first, and Isaac Olney, second lieutenant of the colonel's company.

Augustus Johnston, first, and Benjamin Thayer, second lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company.

John Taylor, of South Kingstown, first, and Henry Shearman, second lieutenant of the major's company.

Benjamin Dunham, first, and Josias Rogers, second lieutenant of Capt. Belcher's company.

Wm. Gardner, Jr., first, and Jeremiah Briggs, second lieutenant of Capt. Richmond's company.

Stephen Arnold, first, and Benjamin Butler, second lieutenant of Capt. Windsor's company.

Moses Warren, first, and Thomas Rathbune, 3d, second lieutenant of Capt. Coggeshall's company.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the officers of the regiment to be raised, in consequence of the act of this Assembly, passed for that purpose, shall have and receive monthly wages, in lawful money, as followeth :

The colonel, £15 ; the lieutenant colonel, £11 5s. ; the major, £9 15s. ; and the wages of the commissioned officers and adjutant, shall be the same in this, as in the regiment now in the field ; and six shillings, lawful money, shall be added to the wages of all the subaltern officers.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at two of their late sessions, ordered the sum of £6,000, lawful money, in bills of public credit, to be struck off, to defray the charges of the expedition against Crown Point ; £2,000, whereof, and no more, hath yet been struck off,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the remaining £4,000 be immediately struck off, for the purpose, aforesaid.

Whereas, Benjamin Wickham, Esq., who was appointed one of the directors of the lottery, for raising a sum of money towards building the fort, hath been chosen lieutenant colonel of the regiment to be raised and sent as a reinforcement, &c. :

This Assembly, therefore, do choose and appoint Mr. Henry Ward, and he hereby is chosen and appointed a director of said lottery, in said Mr. Wickham's room ; he, the said Henry

Ward, giving such a bond for his faithful discharge of the trust committed to him, as is required of the other directors.

Whereas, Thursday next hath been appointed for the assembling of all the companies, or trained bands in the colony, in order to the enlistment of soldiers, for the regiment now ordered to be raised, and no provision hath been made in case of foul weather,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that if said day shall happen to be a rainy day, that the companies meet on the next day, being Friday; and if Friday prove a rainy day, also, that then the same be deferred until the Monday following.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the assistant and deputies in the county of Kent, be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered, to choose and appoint a captain; and also the first and second lieutenants, for the eighth company of the regiment to be raised in this colony, as a reinforcement to the army gone against Crown Point.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the secretary, on the 18th day of this instant October, publish, in the town of Newport, by beat of drum, all the acts and orders made and passed at this session; and send a copy of the same to each town clerk in the colony, within three days after the rising of this Assembly, which is hereby adjourned, without day.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the last Wednesday in October, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Joseph Nichols, Esq., Col. Benoni Waterman, Peter Bours, Latham Clarke, Job Randall and Thomas Greene, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to draw a bill to prevent the further depreciation of the currency of this colony, and present the same unto this Assembly at their present session.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Wickham, George Brown, Othniel Gorton, Jeremiah Niles and Nathaniel Fales, Esqs., be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to proportion unto the several counties in this colony, the rate ordered to be assessed and levied on the inhabitants by the General Assembly, at their session holden in Newport, the fourth Monday in August last, and make report unto this Assembly, before their rising.

Whereas, John Hull, of Jamestown, in the county of Newport, merchant, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that there is a ferry set up at the Long Wharf, in the town of Newport, which hath no mate boat; and thereupon prayed the liberty of setting up a ferry on the east side of Jamestown, aforesaid, for the transportation of men, women, creatures and every thing else, from his wharf, in said Jamestown, to Newport; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the prayer of the said John Hull, in his aforesaid petition made, be, and the same is hereby



granted ; provided, he will set up said ferry upon the same terms as are granted to Thomas Haszard, for setting up a ferry from the Long Wharf, aforesaid.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that all the soldiers enlisted at Fort George, excepting four, be discharged by the captain of the fort, as soon as he can do the same conveniently ; and the said captain is hereby directed to remove all the powder he has in said fort, save four barrels, and place the same in the magazine of the town of Newport.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the regiment of four hundred men, lately raised by this colony, in order to reinforce the army, gone against Crown Point, do not march until His Honor the Governor, by advice of the committee of war, shall give further orders ; and His Honor the Governor is hereby requested to send an express with the utmost despatch, unto His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, informing him what this government hath done with regard to raising men ; and that this Assembly being informed that the small pox is rife at Albany, it is apprehended that the marching said regiment at this juncture, will be attended with the utmost danger ; and therefore desire to know what His Excellency thinks best to be done respecting the same ; and that said letter be laid before this Assembly.

Whereas, a majority of the committee that was appointed in the former part of this session of Assembly to proportion unto the several counties the rate or tax, ordered in August last, to be assessed and levied on the inhabitants of this colony, having performed that service, presented this Assembly with the following report, endorsed on a copy of the vote, whereby they were appointed to that service :

“ We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, by the General Assembly, as appears by the within vote, to proportion the rate now to be assessed on the inhabitants of this colony, have agreed on the following proportions, viz :

	Old tenor.	Lawful money.
	£ s.	£ s.
Newport .....	20,304 12.....	1,532 9
Providence .....	12,525 10.....	945 7
Kings.....	12,275 10.....	926 6
Bristol .....	2,602 10.....	196 9
Kent.....	5,291 18.....	399 9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£53,000 00	£4,000 0
BENJ. WICKHAM,		NATHANIEL BATES,
JER. NILES,		OTHNIEL GORTON."

And now, this Assembly having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and is hereby accepted in every respect, save that the sum taken off from the county of Kings county, shall be divided between the counties of Providence and Kent, in proportion to the rates to be assessed on the two counties last mentioned.

God save the King.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

Fort Edward, October 30th, 1756.

Sir:—I this moment had the favor of yours of October 23d, with an account of the quotas your government had voted, for the assistance of the troops at Lake George.

As the different governments, who had voted men, on the 20th August, delayed so long in coming to a resolution, and then appointed them to be raised in a shape that it was impossible for them to arrive in time here, to be of use, I immediately wrote to them, to prevent their marching, as that could have no effect, but putting the colonies to expense, I must likewise beg, that you will stop your people likewise from marching.

I find the express is just setting out, which obliges me to cut this short; but cannot end, before I beg you will return my hearty thanks to your Assembly, as I do sincerely to you.

I am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Order from the King, to Governor of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, October 9th 1756.

Gentlemen:—It having been represented to His Majesty, that the several islands and colonies, belonging to the French, in America, have, in times of war, been frequently supplied with provisions of various kinds, by means of the trade carried on from His Majesty's islands and colonies, to the colonies and settlements belonging to the Dutch, and other neutral powers; it is His Majesty's pleasure, that you do, forthwith, upon the receipt of this order, give immediate directions that an embargo be laid, during His Majesty's pleasure, upon all ships and vessels clearing out with provisions, from any port or place within your government, except those which shall be employed in carrying provisions to any other of His Majesty's colonies and plantations; which ships or vessels are to be allowed to sail from time to time, provided, that the masters or owners do, before they are permitted to take any provisions on board, enter into bonds (with two sureties, of known residence there, and ability to answer the penalty,) with the chief officers of the customs of the ports or places from whence such ships or vessels shall set sail, to the value of £1,000, if the ship be of less burthen than one hundred tons, and of the sum of £2,000, if above that burthen, that the cargo of such ships or vessels, the particulars of which are to be expressed in the bond, shall not be landed in any other ports or places than such as belong to His Majesty, or are in possession of His Majesty's subjects; and that they will, within twelve months after the date thereof, the danger of the seas excepted, produce certificates, under the hands and seals of the principal officers of the customs, at such ports or places for which such ships or vessels cleared out, that the said cargoes, (expressing the particulars thereof,) have actually been landed there. And when there shall be cause to suspect that such certificates are false and counterfeit, you shall take especial care that such security be not cancelled or vacated, until you shall have been informed from the said principal officers of the customs, that the matter and contents thereof, are just and true; and in case the masters or owners of such ships or vessels shall not produce the said certificates, within the time limited, you are to attest the copies of such bonds, under your hands and seals, and to cause prosecution thereof; and you are also to give directions, that no person be admitted to be security for another, who has bonds standing out undischarged, unless he be esteemed responsible for more than the value of such bonds.

And, in order the more fully to answer His Majesty's intention of distressing the enemy, and to render his orders herein, the more effectual, you are to take care, in case the masters or owners of any ships or vessels, having cleared out from that colony under your government, laden with provisions for any of His Majesty's other colonies or islands, shall be detected in causing collusive captures to be made of the cargoes, that the severest penalties be inflicted upon the offenders, which the laws will, in such case, allow of.

We are, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

DUNK HALIFAX,  
ANDREW STONE,  
JAMES OSWALD.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the third Monday in November, 1756.*

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Governor.

The Hon. John Gardner, Deputy Governor.

An Act for proportioning unto the several towns, the rates or deder by the General Assembly, at their session in Newport, on the fourth Monday of August last, to be assessed and levied on the inhabitants of this colony.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session, holden at Newport, on the fourth Monday of August last, made and passed an act for assessing and levying a rate or tax of £4,000, lawful money, on the inhabitants of this colony, to be burnt; and also a rate or tax for the sum of £53,000, old tenor, for supplying the general treasury; to be assessed, levied and collected on or before the last day of February next, neither of which rates or taxes hath been yet proportioned;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said rates shall be, and hereby are, proportioned unto the several towns, as followeth, to wit:

	Lawful money.	Old tenor.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Newport.....	800 00 00	10,602 00 00
Portsmouth....	180 00 00	2,383 00 00
New Shoreham...	77 00 00	1,021 00 00
Jamestown.....	90 00 00	1,193 00 00
Middletown....	123 00 00	1,631 00 00
Tiverton.....	132 04 06	1,750 12 00
Little Compton..	130 04 06	1,724 00 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,532 09 00	£20,304 12 00

	Lawful money.	Old tenor.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Providence .....	292 07 00	3,874 00 00
Smithfield .....	223 16 00	2,965 08 00
Scituate .....	98 18 00	1,310 08 00
Glocester .....	98 18 00	1,310 08 00
Cumberland .....	64 10 00	854 00 00
Cranston .....	149 03 00	1,977 00 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£927 12 00	£12,291 04 00
Westerly.....	229 00 00	3,024 19 00
North Kingstown	177 03 00	2,350 00 00
South Kingstown	297 00 00	3,938 00 00
Charlestown .....	82 02 00	1,086 11 00
Exeter .....	84 00 00	1,117 00 00
Richmond.....	57 01 00	759 00 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£926 06 00	£12,275 10 00
Bristol.. ..	104 08 00	1,383 06 00
Warren .....	92 01 00	1,219 04 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£196 09 00	£2,602 10 00
Warwick .....	183 13 00	2,432 00 00
East Greenwich..	102 17 00	1,363 18 00
West Greenwich .	65 07 00	865 03 00
Coventry .....	65 07 00	865 03 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£417 04 00	£5,526 04 00

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all the lawful money shall be paid in the bills that bear date in the month of February, 1756 ; or in silver or gold, according to the face of said bills.

And it is further enacted, that the assessors or rate makers, shall, upon their assessing or apportioning the aforesaid rates or taxes, return a true bill or list of the same, unto the clerk of the town to which they respectively belong, within forty days after the rising of this Assembly ; and that said town clerk send a copy thereof, unto the general treasurer, in four days ; who, upon receipt thereof, shall issue his warrants in four days unto the several collectors of rates of the respective towns, requiring them in His Majesty's name, to collect the several sums to them respectively committed, in lawful money, or in silver and gold, or old tenor bills, agreeably to this act, by the last day of February, as aforesaid, and pay the same unto the general treasurer, or to his successors in said office, for the uses, aforesaid.

And be further enacted, that each respective town shall pay all the charges and fees that shall arise in or upon the assessing and collecting its part of the aforesaid rate or tax.

And it is further enacted, that the poll money, in assessing this rate, be six pence per £1,000.

And that the secretary, send by express, a printed copy of this act unto every town clerk in the colony, within eight days after the rising of this Assembly, to be, by said town clerk, immediately delivered unto the assessors or rate makers, of his town.

### *Protests.*

I protest against the proportion of the town of Portsmouth, for the following reason : because too large in proportion with Newport and Tiverton, and therefore unequal.

WILLIAM EARL.

We, the subscribers, dissent from this vote, for the following reasons, viz. :

1. Because we are of opinion that the rates of the several towns in the county of Kings county, instead of being equally and justly proportioned, as all rates should be, will, according to the above proportion, be extremely unequal ; and think it will fully appear ; for according to that estimation, the town of Westerly is to pay above £6,000, old tenor ; and the town of North Kingstown, not £5,000 ; whereas, there are more inhabitants in North Kingstown than in Westerly ; the soil, in our opinion, better, besides the great benefit of being nearer the market.

We are of opinion that the inequality of the above proportion, will further appear, by comparing the towns of South Kingstown and Westerly ; for South Kingstown contains near as much land as Westerly ; the soil beyond comparison better,

much nearer to market, the inhabitants possessed of many slaves; and being the county town, it draws a good deal of money out of the rest of the county; and upon all these accounts, ought to pay near as much again as Westerly.

And we imagine the inequality will further appear, by comparing Charlestown and Richmond; for according to the best judgment we can form, the town of Richmond contains more inhabitants than Charlestown, and ought, therefore, to pay near as much as Charlestown; instead of which, they will not pay so much, by above £6,00, old tenor.

It is said in the report, that all reasonable arguments were used to convince us of the equity of their proposal, when no one argument was offered that appeared to us to be reasonable; for, though they offered that a sum should be taken off Charlestown and Westerly, yet, as that sum was not any way equal to the burthen which was laid upon us in the last rate (for proof of which, we appeal to the proportion of the rate of £35,000), we thought, in justice to our constituents, we could not comply with it.

JOSHUA CLARKE,  
SAMUEL WARD.

CHRISTO. CHAMPLAIN.  
GIDEON HOXSIE.

I report against the proportion of the town of Jamestown, for the following reason, to wit: that I think that town is greatly over-proportioned, according to several other towns in the county of Newport.

RICHARD STEERE.

We, the subscribers, do dissent from the above vote, for the reasons following: for that the town of West Greenwich was very much burthened with a heavy tax before; and our conference with our brethren of the county of Kent, was wrongly represented to the lower house, by one of the members; and the representatives of the south county were all out of the house; so that the whole of the tax the south county was disburthened of, was laid on Coventry and West Greenwich; which is a grievous hardship for West Greenwich to bear; for that we think that Warwick and East Greenwich in justice ought to have taken their proportionable part, according to the former tax; which we humbly submit to your honors to consider.

PRESERVED HALL,  
SAMUEL DYRE.

We, the subscribers, beg leave to dissent from the within vote, for the county of Bristol, as to the proportions of the towns of Warren and Bristol, for the following reasons, viz.:

1. We look upon the town of Warren to be equal in value to the town of Bristol.

2. As it was a tie vote in the lower house, and the speaker turned the vote in favor of the town of Warren; but upon the best information he could get afterwards, was of opinion that the town of Bristol was over-proportioned.

THOMAS GREENE,  
NATHANIEL FALES.

I, the subscriber, do protest against the proportion of the several towns in the county of Newport, for the following reasons:

1. Because there is a considerable sum taken off New Shoreham, and added to

Little Compton, to the amount of almost £400, over and above the last proportion to said town.

2. That the above sum, or the major part thereof, should have been put to some of the other towns, and to the town of Newport, in particular.

THOMAS CHURCH.

Whereas, the following report was presented unto this Assembly,—

The Colony of Rhode Island,

With Jonathan Nichols, Thomas Cranston and Peter Bours, of the committee of war, on account of the expedition designed against Crown Point,

	Dr.	
	£	s. d.
To the amount of an account with sundry persons, audited August 15, 1755, by Joseph Lippitt, James Sheffield, Joseph Russell and Obadiah Brown, Esqs.....	20,957	11 10½
To the amount of an account with Thomas Cranston, Esq., audited August 15th, 1755, by the above gentlemen.....	1,695	04 00
To the amount of an account with Peter Bours, Esq., audited August 15, 1755, by the above gentlemen.....	786	08 05
To the amount of an account with sundry persons audited October 31st, 1755, by Obadiah Brown and James Sheffield, Esqs.....	36,497	15 06
To the amount of His Honor, the Deputy Governor, Jonathan Nichols, Esq., his account, audited October 31st, 1755, by the above gentlemen.....	17,863	05 08
To the amount of Thomas Cranston, Esq., his account, audited October 31st, 1755, by the above gentlemen.....	3,704	15 06
To the amount of Peter Bours, Esq., his account, audited October 31, 1755, by the above gentlemen.....	2,960	10 00
To the amount of an account with sundry persons, audited March 11, 1756, by J. Sheffield and J. Russell, Esqs.....	18,412	06 05
To the amount of muster rolls, audited March 11, 1756, by J. Sheffield and J. Russell, Esqs.....	17,012	10 07
To the amount of Thomas Cranston, Esq., his third account, audited March 11, 1756, by the above gentlemen.....	3,399	17 00
To Peter Bours, Esq., the amount of his third account, audited March 11, 1756, by the above gentlemen.....	1,320	13 09
	£124,611 18 08½	

Cr.

By our orders, drawn on the general treasurer, from time to time £124,611 18 08½

We, the subscribers, being appointed by The Honorable, the General Assembly, to audit the accounts of the committee of war, in the expedition designed against Crown Point, do make report :

That we have examined the accounts exhibited to us by Jonathan Nichols, Thos.



Cranston and Peter Bours, members of the said committee, and find [them well vouched; and that the account of the other side of the sums expended by them, is what we have audited agreeably thereto.

JOSEPH RUSSELL,  
JAMES SHEFFIELD,  
O. BROWN.

And this Assembly, having taken the said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and is hereby accepted.

Whereas, this Assembly hath been informed, that Samuel Thayer, of Providence, hath grossly abused them,—

They therefore vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Samuel Thayer be immediately brought before this Assembly, to answer for his said misdemeanor; and that the secretary forthwith issue a warrant, directed unto the sheriff of the county of Providence, or his deputy, for that purpose.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their last session, passed a vote, resolving that the committee, or the major part of them, that were appointed to audit the account of the grand committee, be directed to burn all the bills of credit collected for the last rate, which at that time were in the general treasury, excepting those called lawful money, and make report unto this Assembly; in consequence whereof, what follows, was soon presented.

#### *Report of the Committee.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, a committee to receive of Thomas Richardson, Esq., general treasurer, the rate money in his hands, and to burn the same, except such part thereof, as is in lawful money, do report:

That we have received of said Thomas Richardson, Esq., £66,162 4s. 1d., old tenor; of which, we have burnt £52,271 17s. 5d.; the remainder, being £13,041 15s. 6d., lawful money; and calculated as it now passes, is, in old tenor, £13,890 6s. 8d., which we have deposited in the hands of the said Thomas Richardson Esq., till further orders from the General Assembly.

We also report, that there is still to be collected, and paid into the treasurer's office, £3,837 15s. 11d., old tenor, to make up the £70,000, the amount of the rate

ordered by this Assembly to be assessed and levied on the inhabitants of this colony, as appears by the list herewith presented.

THOMAS CRANSTON,  
PETER BOURS,  
JAMES SHEFFIELD.

Newport, November 12th, 1756.

N. B. £18,430 3s., Crown Point money.

Unto which report, the committee subjoined the following account :

Colony,	Dr.	To our time and trouble, five days.....	£45
		THOMAS CRANSTON,	JAMES SHEFFIELD.
		PETER BOURS.	

And this Assembly having taken said report into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the foregoing account of £45, be allowed, and paid unto the aforesaid Thomas Cranston, Peter Bours and James Sheffield, Esqs., out of the general treasury.

What follows, is a true copy of the list referred to in the the foregoing report, made by Messrs. Cranston, Bours and Sheffield.

*Report.*

Memorandums of the several towns in this colony; that have paid their proportion of the £70,000 colony rate, into the treasury, and those that are wanting, viz. :

	£	s.	d.	Wanting.
				£ s. d.
Newport .....	14,000	00	00	
Middletown .....	2,140	00	00	10 00 00
Portsmouth .....	3,206	04	06	9 15 06
Jamestown .....	1,338	00	00	bond of D. Weeden's, 262 00 00
Cranston .....	2,500	00	00	
Warwick.....	3,213	00	00	
Little Compton .....	2,051	00	00	
South Kingstown.....	5,200	00	00	
Westerly.....	4,730	00	00	
Richmond .....	1,003	00	00	
Smithfield .....	3,750	00	00	
Warren .....	1,580	02	01	29 17 11
Glocester .....	1,680	10	00	

	£	s.	d.	Wanting.
				£ s. d.
Charlestown .....	1,700	00	00	
Scituate .....	1,475	00	00	158 00 00
North Kingstown .....	3,105	00	00	
Cumberland .....	1,080	00	00	
Tiverton .....	2,200	00	00	
Providence .....	4,600	00	00	300 00 00
West Greenwich .....	1,039	19	00	29 11 00
Bristol .....	1,781	01	11	45 18 01
New Shoreham .....	1,582	00	00	18 00 00
Exeter .....	400	00	00	1,075 00 00
Coventry .....	807	06	70	99 13 05
East Greenwich .....				1,800 00 00
	£66,162 04 01			£3,837 15 11
Balance due to the colony,	3,837 15 11			
	£70,000 00 00			

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, Samuel Thayer was brought before them in consequence of a warrant issued against him by the secretary, pursuant to vote of this Assembly; and the said Samuel confessing that he had damned this General Assembly,—

It is therefore ordered, that he, the said Samuel Thayer, be forthwith committed to, and closely confined in His Majesty's jail, at Providence.

Whereas, it is feared that there are some persons in this colony, dangerous and disaffected to His Majesty's person and government, who not only having thrown off all duty and allegiance, themselves, are, by secret acts and practices, daily endeavoring and attempting to alienate the minds and affections of others, His Majesty's subjects, from that duty and allegiance which they justly owe to their lawful and rightful sovereign; which practices, if continued, may prove of fatal consequence; for preventing whereof, for the future,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from and after the publication of this act, it shall, and may be lawful for His Honor the Governor, His Honor the Deputy Governor, any assistant or judge either of the superior or inferior courts, or any of His Majesty's justices of the peace, to tender the oaths of allegiance and ab-

jurament unto, and cause the same to be taken and subscribed, according to the form of the statute in that case made and provided, by any person or persons whatsoever, whom either of the officers above mentioned, shall suspect to be dangerous or disaffected to His Majesty's person or government; and if any such person or persons, shall refuse to take and subscribe the oaths, aforesaid, the officer that tendered the same, shall certify the refusal thereof unto the next court of general sessions of the peace, that may be holden in the county where the offence shall happen; and if he, she or they shall there also refuse, such refusal shall be recorded in the public book, to said court belonging; and all persons so neglecting or refusing to take and subscribe the oaths, aforesaid, shall be adjudged, upon such last neglect or refusal, as popish recusant convict; and be proceeded against as such, for the forfeiture of his or her goods, and chattels, and lands, and tenements, to and for the use of the colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every of the officers above mentioned, may, by writing under his hand and seal, summon any person or persons, suspected, as aforesaid, to appear before him, at such time and place as he shall see cause to appoint, then and there to take and subscribe the oaths, aforesaid; which summons shall be served on such person or persons, or left at his, her, or their house or usual place of abode, with one of the family; and if such person or persons do not appear, according to summons, then, on oath made that said summons was served, in the aforesaid manner, the officer who issued the same, shall make a certificate thereof, unto the next court of general sessions of the peace, in the county where said summons was granted, there to be entered in the book of records, to said court belonging; and if such person or persons shall not make his, her or their appearance, at the said session, and then and there subscribe and take the oaths, aforesaid, his, her or their name or names shall be publicly read at the first meeting of the said session; and he, she or they shall be esteemed a popish recusant convict or convicts; and forfeit all his, her or their goods and

chattels, lands and tenements, accordingly, to and for the colony's use.

And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall, from and after the publication of this act, maliciously or directly by writing, printing or speaking, declare, maintain or affirm that His present Majesty, our sovereign lord, George the Second, is not the lawful and rightful King of Great Britain, with the dominions and territory thereunto belonging, or that the pretended Prince of Wales, who now styles himself King of Great Britain, by the name of James the Third, hath any right or title to the crown of Great Britain, or that any other person or persons hath or have any right or title to the same, otherwise than according to the several laws and statutes made for declaring the rights and liberties of the subject, and settling the succession of the crown, or that the Kings and Queens of Great Britain, with and by the authority of Parliament, are not able to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to limit and bind the crown of Great Britain, with the dominions thereof, and the descent, limitation, inheritance and government of the same, all and every such person and persons being of such offence lawfully convicted, shall incur the danger and penalty of a præmunire, according to the statute of præmunire made in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Richard the Second.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall be prosecuted by virtue of this act, for any words spoken, unless the information of such words being spoken, be given upon oath, within three days after their being spoken, and the prosecution for such offence be within six months after the information; and that no person or persons, shall be convicted by virtue of this act, from any such words spoken, but by the oaths of two credible witnesses.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their last session, appointed a committee to prepare a bill to prevent the further depreciation of the paper currency of this colony, which committee could not agree about the matter,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that another committee shall be, and hereby is appointed for the purpose, aforesaid, to wit: James Honeyman, Jeremiah Niles, Esqs., Mr. Samuel Ward and Lieut. Col. Benjamin Wickham; and that they, or the major part of them, make report unto this Assembly, at their next session.

Whereas, the greater part of the money granted by His Majesty to this colony, consists of pieces of gold, of the coin of Portugal, each of the value of thirty-six shillings, sterling,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer shall reckon and deliver out the aforesaid pieces of gold, at eight Spanish milled dollars, each.

Whereas, His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun, hath sent His Honor the Governor, a letter, directing that the regiment of four hundred men, lately raised by this colony, for His Majesty's service, do not march, as the season is so far advanced, that they cannot be of any service this year; and whereas, His Honor, in conformity to the directions of His Lordship, gave public notice to all the officers and soldiers of the regiment, aforesaid, that they might repair unto their respective homes and occupations; and should receive wages and billeting no longer than the 8th day of this instant November; which being duly considered,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the notice of His Honor, given, as aforesaid, shall, and hereby is declared to be a full and final discharge of all and every the above mentioned officers and soldiers; and that the same be, and hereby is approved of, by this Assembly.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the bill brought in and now lying before them, entitled "An act to regulate the manner of making up judgments in the several courts; and also to ascertain the value of the bills of public credit of this colony," be put into print, by the secretary, and sent to each town clerk in the government,

that the same may be made public in every town; so that all the inhabitants may be made acquainted therewith.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all collectors of rates in this colony, who have been deficient in their duty, shall be prosecuted by the general treasurer unto final judgment and execution; and that all those who, having been by him already sued, are liable to executions, shall be immediately served with executions of the judgments obtained against them, respectively, and committed to jail, and there remain confined until such time as they pay what is due from them, respectively; and in such payment, render and give up all Crown Point bills, so called, that they received in collecting the rate or tax, and have not paid into the general treasury.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all the collectors of the last rate or tax, who did not pay into the general treasury before the 28th day of August last, the whole of what they were to collect, shall be forthwith called before a committee or committees, to be by this Assembly appointed; which committee or committees shall be, and hereby are, empowered to call such collectors, and every of them, to take an oath or engagement, in the following form, to wit:

You ——, do solemnly swear [affirm], that, to the best of your knowledge, you have not, since the 28th day of August, 1756, passed away or parted with, or kept back, any bills or bills of credit of this colony, called Crown Point bills, which you received of any person or persons, for his, her or their rate or rates, before or since the said 28th day of August, 1756.

And in case any of the collectors shall refuse to take said oath or affirmation, that then he, or they, so refusing, shall declare, upon oath or engagement, what sum or sums of said Crown Point bills, he or they received, as aforesaid; and upon a refusal to do the same, that the said committee or committees, so to be appointed, shall be, and hereby are, authorized

and fully empowered to commit him or them to close prison, there to remain until he or they shall make or give such oath or engagement.

And if the said collectors, or either of them, hath parted with any of the said Crown Point bills, collected as aforesaid, unto any other person or persons, besides the general treasurer, that they, and every of the said collectors shall procure, for the colony, so much in value of said Crown Point bills, as he or they have parted with, as aforesaid; and for want of the same, silver or gold, to the value thereof, at the rate of £4, old tenor, for a dollar, or gold, at its proportionate value; and shall also render an account, upon oath, or engagement, who the person or persons is or are, unto whom such collector or collectors passed the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that no person or persons, who hath or have received any of the said Crown Point bills, from any collector or collectors of rates or taxes, shall be permitted to receive any thing of the general treasurer for the Crown Point bill or bills, so clandestinely obtained, save old tenor bills, equivalent thereto, at the nominal value.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that such committee or committees as shall be appointed to examine the collectors of rates or taxes, pursuant to this act, shall forthwith give in a list or lists of the names of all such persons as have received any of the said Crown Point bills from such collector or collectors; and that the general treasurer do not give out any silver or gold for such bill or bills as may be presented, to be exchanged by any person or persons, named in such list or lists, delivered, as aforesaid; or to any other person or persons whatever, until he, she or they have made oath or affirmation that the bill or bills offered to be exchanged, hath or have not been received from, or been in the hands of, any of the persons named in such list or lists, as aforesaid, since the 15th day of this instant November; nor to his, her or their knowledge, since the 28th day of August last.

And for effectually carrying this act into execution, this As-



sembly do choose and appoint the gentlemen whose names immediately follow, a committee, for the purposes herein before mentioned, viz. :

Lieut. Col. Benjamin Wickham, Capt. William Mumford and Mr. William Bailey, for the county of Newport.

Capt. David Whipple, Lieut. Col. John Andrews and Mr. Christopher Waterman, for the county of Providence.

Latham Clarke, James Helme and Samuel Albro, Esqs., for the county of Kings county.

Nathaniel Fales, Thomas Greene and Joseph Russell, Esqs., for the county of Bristol.

Othniel Gorton, Esq., Mr. John Spencer and Col. Benoni Waterman, for the county of Kent.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the major part of each of the said committees, shall be, and hereby is, constituted a quorum, with power to act as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as if the whole of such committee were personally present, and joined therein.

*Protest.*

We, the subscribers, beg leave to dissent from the vote relating to the calling the collectors of rates in the colony, to account, with regard to the last £70,000 tax, for the following reasons :

1. As the vote is to call a part of the said collectors to account for their conduct, and not all ; which we apprehend, ought to be general.

2. We apprehend the collectors were sufficiently warned by the vote passed at the February session, when the tax was altered, in order to redeem the Crown Point bills.

3. We apprehend the putting of said time to the fourth Monday of August, will, in no shape answer the design intended by the above vote.

THOMAS GREENE,  
THOMAS HOWLAND,  
OTHNIEL GORTON,

WILLIAM BAILEY,  
NICHOLAS BROWN.  
WILLIAM MUMFORD.

November 18th, A. D. 1756.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the committee of war be, and they are hereby authorized and fully empowered, to discharge or retain some, or all of the troops by this colony raised, last spring, and sent in the expedition against Crown Point; said committee regulating their conduct in that respect by such advice and directions as they shall receive from His Excellency the Earl of Loudoun.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that in case the silver and gold by His Majesty granted unto this colony, which, by an act of the General Assembly, is to be appropriated towards exchanging the Crown Point bills, so called, shall not be sufficient to answer that purpose, all persons who shall bring any of said bills unto the general treasurer, after the silver and gold is exhausted, shall receive notes of them for silver, at £4 per dollar; or gold, in proportion, to be paid on or before the 22d day of December next, with lawful interest, from the day of the date of said notes.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and hereby is, requested to procure, upon the best terms in his power, a sufficiency of silver and gold to refund what he borrowed for the use of the colony, and draw money out of the general treasury to pay for the same.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Christopher Hall be, and he hereby is, chosen a committee man, for the town of West Greenwich, in the room of Mr. John Greene, deceased.

This Assembly do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that Mr. Robert Haszard, of South Kingstown, and Capt. John Reynolds, of Exeter, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to run the dividing line between the towns of South Kingstown and Exeter; that they erect proper monuments therein, and make report unto this Assembly, at their next session; and that the charge of doing the same, be equally paid between the said towns.

Whereas, the sum of £33,841 14s .5d., in bills of public credit, of the old tenor, was lately burnt in the general treasury, through a mistake,—

This Assembly, therefore, do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that a like sum of the same sort of bills, be taken out of the grand committee's office, and placed in the general treasury, in lieu of what was burnt, as aforesaid; and that the same be deemed burnt in the grand committee's office, as so much paid in for tenths; which aforesaid sum, together with £1,041 15s. 6d., lawful money, now in the general treasury, and deposited there by the committee that burnt said old tenor bills, shall be appropriated towards paying off the soldiers returning from the expedition against Crown Point.

*Protest.*

The subscriber dissents from the above vote, for the following reasons, viz.:

1. Because I think the burning of that money was no mistake, and ought to have been done long ago.

2. Because I think the appropriating money paid into the grand committee's office, to the use of the colony, is a violation of the act of Parliament, and a breach of the faith of this government.

SAMUEL WARD.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1756.*

[The following Public Acts, passed during the year 1756, are not printed in these Records, but will be found in the volume of Public Laws, printed in the year 1767.]

An Act in addition to, and in amendment of the several acts regulating the militia. (February.)

An Act to prevent shrieves, deputy shrieves, and jail keepers being chosen members of the General Assembly. (February.)

An Act for altering the time for choosing town officers in Jamestown. (February.)

An Act for naturalizing Nicholas Battar. (May.)

An Act for naturalizing John Amiel. (June.)

- An Act for empowering the Governor to license vessels to go to the neighboring governments for flour. (June)
- An Act for the relief of insolvent debtors. (June.)
- An Act for the more effectual obstructing the transportation of provisions and warlike stores out of the colony. (June.)
- An Act empowering the general treasurer to call special courts for the recovery of any sum or sums of money which ought to be gathered and paid into the general treasury. (June.)
- An Act for naturalizing Guillaume Albrespy, a subject of the French King. (August.)
- An Act increasing the allowance to the keepers of His Majesty's jails in this colony, for their support of poor prisoners, committed at the King's suit. (August.)
- An Act for opening and setting up a public lottery, to raise the sum of £10,000, towards building Fort George, on Goat Island, in the township of Newport. (August.)
- An Act regulating the prices of ferriage at the ferries, commonly called Cook's or Fogland Ferry, Howland's, Anthony's, Bristol and Warren Ferries. (September.)
- An Act to postpone the drawing of the first class of the lottery opened in this colony, to raise £10,000, old tenor, towards building Fort George, etc. (November.)

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## MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, CHIEFLY RELATING TO THE FRENCH WAR.

### *Governor Hopkins to Governor Shirley.*

Newport, March 11, 1756.

Sir :—The General Assembly of this colony met the 23d of February past, and I laid before them the determinations of the general council of war, held at New York, by Your Excellency ; I also then laid before them your letter of the 20th of February, accompanied with the act of the Great and General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, for raising three thousand men for the Crown Point expedition, the ensuing campaign ; a letter from Sir Charles Hardy, and the resolve of the General Assembly of the colony of New York, for raising one thousand men for the same service, was then also laid before them.

After full consideration of these matters, the Assembly here came to a resolution to raise and furnish five hundred men for the aforementioned expedition, and have made the necessary provisions for raising, subsisting and paying that number of men ; being of opinion that five hundred is as large a proportion for this colony, considering their ability, and number of inhabitants, as three thousand is for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, or one thousand for the colony of New York ; and do not think themselves obliged by any means to follow the unequal proportions raised by the several colonies the last year, at the beginning of this enterprise ; however, they seem to be willing, and I dare venture to pass my word for them, that they shall cheerfully undertake to bear an equal share of the expense of reduc-

ing Fort St. Frederic, and the whole Lake Champlain, with its appendages, to the obedience of His Majesty, in proportion to their abilities, when truly compared with the other colonies concerned in that enterprise; but what methods may be come into for settling such proportions among the colonies concerned, seems yet to be very uncertain; and the less to be depended on, as the Massachusetts absolutely refused, when earnestly pressed thereunto, by Your Excellency, to nominate and authorize any commissioners for such a purpose, the preceding year.

As to the conditional acts of Assembly, in the Province of the Massachusetts, and in the colony of Connecticut, for raising men, I am persuaded they can be of very little service to the common cause.

The instructions framed by your General Court, to be given to their committee, placed at and near at Albany, for carrying their resolutions into execution, and a copy of which Your Excellency has been kind enough to communicate to me, I have shown to the committee of war, for the colony, with whom powers are lodged for the like purposes, and are fully approved of by them; and full powers immediately will be given to some proper person or persons, in behalf of this colony, to repair directly to Albany, and to act there in concert with the gentlemen appointed by your Province, for carrying all the matters mentioned in those instructions into execution; and I shall be glad to be informed what number of troops will be sent by the Province of the Massachusetts, for transporting and guarding the provisions and stores in their passage from Albany, to Fort William Henry, and at what time they will be sent away, that I may order a proportionable number to join them in season, for that purpose, which I shall not fail to do.

The list of ordnance stores prepared by the commanding officer of the detachment of the royal regiment of artillery, and communicated to me by Your Excellency, as needful to be provided by the colonies, for the ensuing expedition, I have also laid before our committee of war, who agree that this colony ought to pay their proportion toward the expense of it; and will do it in such manner as may be proposed by Your Excellency, or others principally concerned in that matter; or otherwise, if their proportion can be set off to them, it shall be forthwith provided, and sent forward, as shall be ordered,—this colony and all employed by them for this expedition, being fully determined that whatever part this colony undertakes in it, shall be executed without any kind of delay.

The committee of war here have given me a list of sundry articles they would willingly furnish towards the train, if it be agreeable, with such others as might make up their full proportion, if those should fall short of it.

With the greatest respect,

I am Your Excellency's most humble and most obedient servant,  
STEPH. HOPKINS.

To His Excellency William Shirley, Esq.

*Governor Hopkins to the Committee of War, of Massachusetts.*

Providence, July 16, 1756.

Gentlemen:—As I had given orders to my son, who is commissary for this colony, at Albany, to concert measures with those gentlemen who might represent the Province of the Massachusetts, and the colony of Connecticut there, for the conveyance of letters, and keeping up a weekly correspondence between the colonies

and the camp ; but he now writes me, that persons are employed for that purpose, by the committee of war, in each of the said colonies ; and that it was not in his power to enter into any agreement for that end, at Albany, for affecting a matter so necessary for the public service ; I now apply to you to permit us to receive the benefit of your carrier, upon our paying a proportionable part of the charge which I am freely willing to do, at such times, and in such manner as you shall direct.

Our letters for Albany I can send to Boston, by the post (postage paid here) under cover to you, to send along by your messenger ; and such as may come from thence, for any persons in this colony, you will be kind enough to put under one cover, directed to me, and deliver them to the post rider, whom I will order to call for them. I shall esteem it as a favor if you will give yourselves the trouble to write me on this affair, by the return of the post ; and much more so, if you will send along the letters to Albany, which accompany this, some of them being of great importance.

My son, and other of our officers, by the letters I last received, inform me they had sent divers letters by your carrier, to Boston, for me, but I have never received any of them ; should be glad you would inquire of him, concerning them.

With great esteem and respect,

I am, gentleman, your most humble and most obedient servant,

STEPH. HOPKINS.

To the Hon. the Committee of War, at Boston.

*Rufus Hopkins to the Earl of Loudoun.*

Albany, 12th September, 1756.

My Lord :—I am appointed by the government of Rhode Island, to supply the forces raised in conjunction with the other northern colonies, with provisions and transportation.

I have sent to Fort William Henry the greatest part of the provisions, and the most of the Rhode Island regiment are posted at Fort Edward.

Your Lordship's proposal of yesterday, to take on yourself the victualling the provincials, and making yourself accountable for the value of the remaining provisions, is a measure I not only am satisfied with, but think absolutely necessary ; and had you not made the proposal, I should have thought myself obliged to make application to Your Lordship for that purpose. I will immediately give orders for the delivery of the provision belonging to Rhode Island, to your order, and supply the extraordinary above the King's allowance, until I receive orders from home, for my conduct.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

RUFUS HOPKINS.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Loudoun.

*Governor Shirley to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, September 20, 1756.

Sir :—I have but a few moments' time before the post will go out for the last time before I embark for England, to desire Your Honor to let me know by a

letter to be transmitted to me, in England, under cover, to Messrs. Thomlinson & Trecothick, merchants, in London, how your Assembly and people would stand affected towards an expedition against Cape Breton, early in the spring, in case that should be proposed from England, with an assurance of the places being kept, and with proper arrangement.

I am, with great regard, &c., &c.,

W. SHIRLEY.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

Albany, September 30, 1756.

Sir:—As I have received no answer from you, about the aid I demanded, and, as by the information I received from Mr. Winslow, the enemy are moving towards us, with not only all their regular forces, but all the men they can collect in Canada, capable of bearing arms; I must repeat my demand, and acquaint you that the utmost despatch and expedition is necessary, in whatever you intend to do.

Yours, &c.,

LOUDOUN.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Lieut. Isaac Parker to Col. Israel Williams*

Charlestown, N. Hampshire, October 3d, 1756.

Col. Williams. Sir:—This day arrived here, a little before sunset, one Enos Bishop, an English captive, from Canada, who was taken from Contoocook, upwards of two years ago. He left Canada six and twenty days ago, in company with two other English captives, viz.: one William Hair, who of late, belonged to Brookfield, but had listed himself in Gen. Shirley's regiment, and was taken at Oswego. The other was taken from Pennsylvania.

They left Canada without any gun, or hatchet, or fireworks, and no more than three loaves of bread, and four pounds of pork; so that they suffered much for want of victuals, so that through hunger and fatigue, the two men, his companions, were not able to travel, and he was obliged to leave them the last Sabbath day, a little on this side Conwass, without any sustenance, except a few berries; so that he fears they are perished in the wilderness. I immediately this evening sent out six of our men to look for the men, and to help them to come in, if they are living.

I interrogated the man concerning the affairs at Canada; he tells me he was at Montreal when the French army returned from Oswego; that the French general made his return to the governor that he had taken eighteen hundred prisoners (but others say there were not so many); and that he killed six men, and wounded eight in the capture of the fort.

He tells me that the prisoners who were taken from thence, informed him that it was only the Canadians that attacked the first fort they came at, viz.: Fort Pepperell—who fought three days with their small arms. Col. Mercer, who was in another fort, waved the colors three times to the officer, who was in said fort, as a signal for them to leave the fort; but the officer would not obey the signal; then Col. Mercer sent an order to the officer of said fort, that when he should throw a bomb

over the fort, that then he should plug up the cannon that were in said fort, and destroy the ammunition that was in the fort, and leave it; accordingly they left that fort, and retired to the next fort.

Then the enemy, in the evening, began to intrench in sight of our men, who would have fired upon them, but were not allowed, till they had planted six cannon; then our gunner fired and dismounted four of their cannon. Col. Mercer sent for all his captains, and had a paper in his hand, supposed to be some articles of capitulation; while he held the paper in his hand, there came a cannon shot and tore out his bowels. This was in the evening.

The next morning, after the French had fired two cannon, the English hoisted their flag for a capitulation.

He further informs, that there is a great army gone to Crown Point, consisting of (as the French tell him) thirteen thousand regular troops, besides Indians; the Canadians are to join them, at a minutes's warning, if wanted; the general set out from Canada, last Thursday; was a month for Crown Point. They tell him they have undermined Crown Point fort, in order to blow it up, in case the English should get into it.

The French tell him their general has orders to take the forts at or near Lake George; then to proceed to Albany, and when they have taken that, to advance further into the country, even to Boston, if time and the season will allow.

Thus, sir, I thought it necessary to send you this intelligence, desiring if Your Honor shall think it needful, to communicate to such persons and places as you shall think proper to be informed thereof.

I am, sir, with all due regards,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

ISAAC PARKER.

To Col. Israel Williams.

*Governor Phips to Governor Hopkins.*

Boston, October 8th, 1756.

Sir:—Having received intelligence of a very large armament of French regulars and others, coming from Canada, to attack our forts, upon Lake George, and the English army encamped there; and upon their success in this attempt, to fall upon some of the frontiers in this part of the English colonies, I have thought it necessary to communicate it to Your Honor, as you will find it contained in the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Isaac Parker, of Charlestown, in the Province of New Hampshire, to Col. Israel Williams, of Hatfield, which I received yesterday.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

S. PHIPS.

To the Hon. Governor Hopkins.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

Albany, November 5th, 1756.

Sir:—Last night I was favored with yours of Oct. 31st. As my letter from Fort Edward, would in the main answer this letter, as to the marching of the men, the province has now raised, for the support of their brethren at the lake, I shall only



add, that as the season is now so far advanced, I am now drawing off the troops from the frontier, and sending home the provincials; so that I desire your people may now be dismissed, as being of no use to us.

I am extremely sorry to learn from you, that the colony has been at so great expense, in the raising of those men; but that is no fault of mine; for had any of your people, during your illness, given me any information of what was going on, I would have immediately written to you, to put a stop to that expense; but from the time you informed me of your having sent to Boston, to consult how to proceed as I very well knew what the nature of any advice you would get there at that time, would be, I laid aside all expectation of any assistance from your province that could be of any use this campaign; and you see I have not been mistaken; for in consequence of what you learned there, your first aid you voted, was so small, and both your resolutions so late, that they could not arrive in time to be of any use, except it was to be in readiness to defend your frontiers, in case we had been beaten at the fort, for want of a timely assistance.

As to the small pox in this town, I do not find it has been in more than seven families, in one of the outkirks of the town; nor do I find that any person has been seized with it for near a month; and I hope the cold weather will put a total stop to it.

As to the report of its having got into the troops at the fort, it was raised by some ill-designing people, to make both the New England troops and the Indians leave us and go home; but it had not the effect intended, and I now hear no more of the small pox, than if there were no such thing in the country.

I am, with sincere regard and esteem, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To Governor Hopkins.

*Richard Partridge, Agent for Rhode Island, in London, to Governor Hopkins.*

London, November 5, 1756.

Governor Hopkins:—I lately wrote to the Deputy Governor, per Capt. Wanton, for Rhode Island, who sailed through the Downs the 23d ult.

As to public news, the war continues without any present prospect of accommodation. Several of our merchant ships have of late been taken by the enemy. Admiral Hawks continues with his squadron in the Mediteranean, and Boscowen is yet blocking up the French fleet at Brest.

The Parliament which was to meet the 18th inst., is now prorogued to the 2d of next month; against which time, there are likely to be some considerable alterations in the ministry; the Duke of Newcastle, the first lord of the treasury, having (as is said) already resigned. People here are greatly alarmed and shocked at the loss of Oswego, by the enemy; dreading the consequence.

Our King, at this time, is much distressed on the present posture of affairs, and the ministry greatly embarrassed; for the rest, I refer to the magazine and the prints, now sent thee, to be forwarded by Andrew Oliver, of Boston, per a private hand; and I remain,

Thy assured friend,

RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Governor Hopkins to Lord Loudoun.*

Providence, November 18, 1756.

My Lord :—I have received your letters of the 30th of October, and the 5th of November ; and agreeably to your directions, have dismissed the four hundred men last raised by this colony.

As you are pleased to inform me that you are withdrawing the troops from the field, for this season, and I suppose those from this colony, who have been in the service, will return home, I beg you to give me directions whether they shall be discharged from or retained in the service, to be used again another summer ; as I make no doubt this colony will cheerfully conform to Your Lordship's directions in that, and all other things that concern His Majesty's service, and will not again offend, in consulting their neighbors, to know if they also will obey.

Permit me, sir, to inquire whether you intend to have any meeting with commissioners of the several colonies, this winter ? and if not, where, and at what time those appointed some time past by this colony, may have leave to wait upon you.

I wish for an opportunity, when, with more than words, I may assure you of being sincerely,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,  
STEPHEN HOPKINS.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Loudoun.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

Albany, November 21st, 1756.

Sir :—Last night I had the favor of yours, of the 18th, by the Boston post, acquainting me that you had dismissed the four hundred men, you had been so good as to assemble, to reinforce the troops : and at the same time, desiring my opinion as to keeping in pay, or dismissing during the winter, the troops you had at the lake.

This part of the letter, I am a little diffculted how to answer, for fear of giving offence to your people ; the case of the other provinces, so far as I know, is this :

New York has reduced the regiment they furnished, to eight hundred men, whom they propose keeping up during the winter ; New Jerseys propose keeping up the remains of their regiment ; those two I have assigned posts to, for the security of the provinces.

All the New England governments, so far as has appeared to me, mean to discharge their men so soon as they arrive at home ; and I do not see, till I have the pleasure of meeting with you, and concert the measures for the next campaign, how I can enter into that negotiation ; so in this I must leave it to your own opinion, which will be most for the colony's interest, to keep them up from this time, or dismiss them now, and fix the method of raising them next year ; which I should hope might be done, so as to make a saving for the province, and at the same time more serviceable to the public.

Perhaps I go too far in saying raise them against next year ; all I mean by that, is, that I hope the province will agree to send out a force next year, to aid in settling the future quiet of this country.

I propose having a meeting, with the Governors of the different New England governments, this winter, at Boston, and such other people, as the governments shall think proper to send; it is not yet in my power to tell the time I shall be there, as that depends on letters gone to the south. If I can by those, settle the business there, I shall come first to you; if not, I must go south first, as the business there will not permit of any delay. The minute I can fix a time, I shall acquaint you, and hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at Boston; where I hope we shall be able to settle all matters for carrying on the next campaign, in a unanimous, and I hope, successful manner.

I ever am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

*Secretary William Pitt, to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 7th December, 1756.

Gentlemen:—The King having been graciously pleased to appoint me his principal secretary of state for the southern department, in the room of Mr. Fox, I am to desire that you would, for the future, address your letters to me, which I shall not fail to lay regularly before His Majesty, and to transmit to you such orders and instructions as the King shall think proper for your guidance and direction.

You will see His Majesty's sentiments on the present situation of public affairs, in the enclosed most gracious speech, with which the King opened the Parliament on Thursday, the 2d instant. I also enclose you the address which the Houses have presented in answer thereto.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

W. PITT.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Lord Loudoun to Governor Hopkins.*

New York, 22d December, 1756.

Sir:—I did propose to have been at Boston, on the 6th of January, but the public business here has kept me longer than I expected, which has obliged me to defer it till Thursday, January 13th, at which time, I desire that a meeting may be held there, of the Governors and commissioners of the several New England governments.

For several reasons, I shall not have it in my power to communicate the whole of my plan for the next campaign; and a very material one of these reasons is, that I have some time ago transmitted my plan for His Majesty's approbation, so that the principal point which I propose to settle with the governments, is, what aid they will afford me in the next campaign, for the general service.

This point, I hope you will not scruple fully to empower your commissioners to agree to, without making any return to their constituents for confirmation; and I am hopeful you will do it, as otherwise we shall not be ready early enough in the spring; the consequence of which, you must know, from the experience of the last two years.

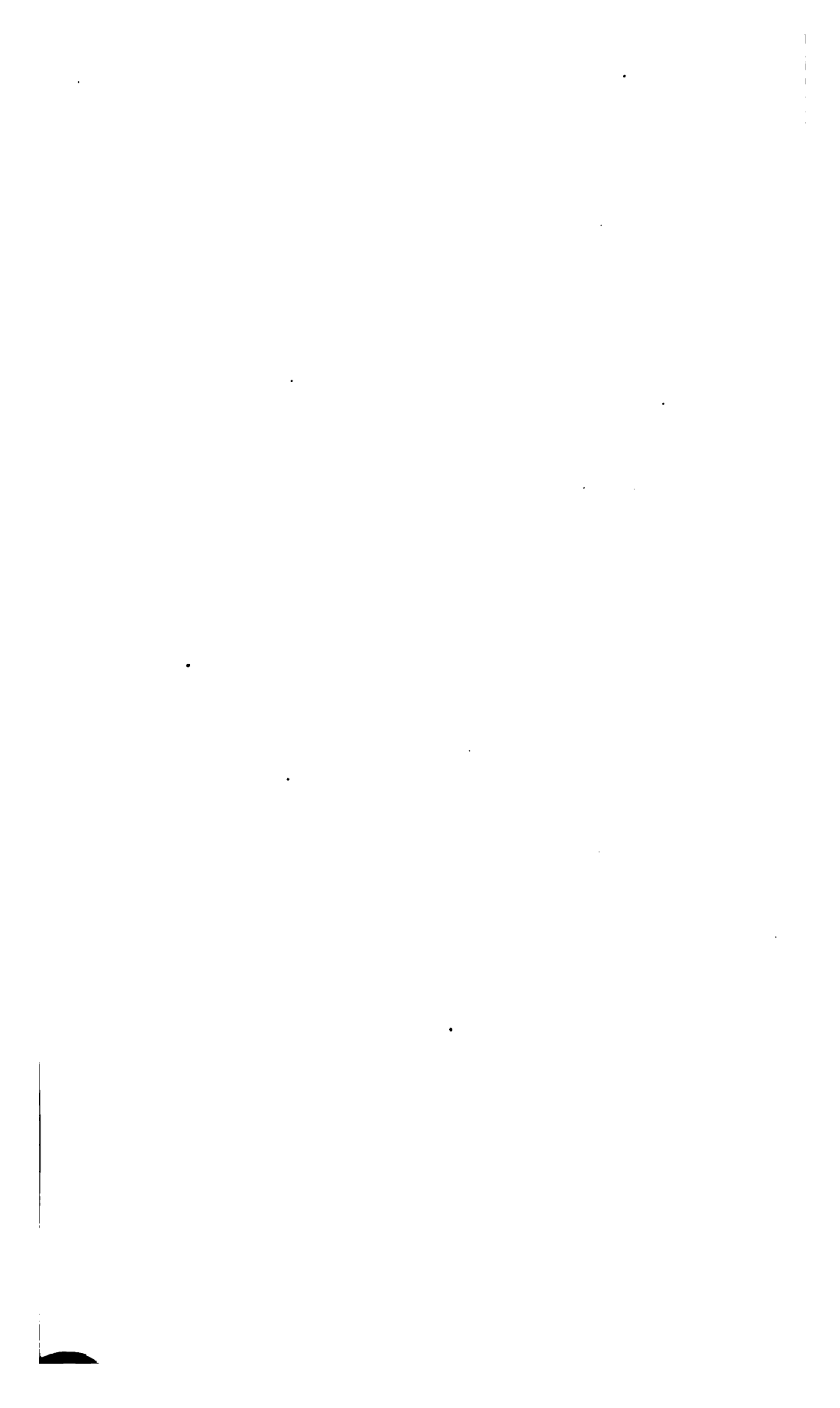
At the same time, I think it necessary that whilst we are in conference, the Assemblies should also be sitting, and as near to the town of Boston as the situation of each colony and the rules of the governments will permit, as things may occur which will require having recourse to them; yet I should hope the powers they will give, may prevent any necessity for that delay, as the different things I have to settle, and the distance of the places where those things are to be done, hardly leaves it in my power to finish the whole before the campaign must begin.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.

LOUDOUN.



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